

the 29th April, 1974, and the printing of the ballot papers, these were despatched to the honourable member's area on the 2nd May, as a first priority. That is the advice which I have. There seems to be some discrepancy of time as to when the papers were received in the area, but that is the only advice I am able to give in reply to the question directed to me by the Hon. George Berry. He also referred, of course, to education and health.

I will now refer to the comments of the Hon. Clive Griffiths who said he was an extremely sensitive person. We note his sensitivities are not changed by the fact that a Government of his own party is back in the Parliament. The honourable member continues, of course, to take the role—or play the part—which he has always done of handling questions of particular electoral value to him and to his people.

I am not in a position to comment at all on the subject he has raised in the House tonight but, once again, the procedure will be that I will certainly have the matter raised for him and I will have the information conveyed to him as soon as possible.

The honourable member also made some reference to licenses for road transport in the north and I thought, as is not uncommon, that he used some very strong expressions such as "blackmail" and "people being exploited". As I understand the situation, one of the purposes of issuing licenses was to ensure that people were not exploited or disadvantaged as a consequence of the system. However, I accept that the honourable member has other views and they certainly will be the subject of some examination.

In closing, I appreciate the co-operation extended by members in dealing with the Address-in-Reply debate. There have been 26 speakers and we are at the point of concluding the debate within our third week of sitting.

I must express to all speakers my appreciation for their co-operation in coming forward with their speeches to enable us to get the debate over and done with.

It has been a very useful debate from the point of view of the information that has been conveyed to the Parliament, and I hope the information will be duly noted by the Government. Where there are opportunities for improvement, and where criticism has been justifiably directed, the Government may be able to take some action.

New members will have gained experience from speaking to the Address-in-Reply. I think it is a worth-while debate. We had a considerable number of speakers, as we did on the Supply Bill, and, bearing in mind that there is a considerable legislative programme to be proceeded with, I hope members will not sit back but will continue to make similar contributions which are of equal value.

I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

Presentation to Governor

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [11.21 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [11.22 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 20th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.22 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 14th August, 1974

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

PREMIERS' CONFERENCE

Statement by Premier

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [4.33 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I seek leave to make a statement relating to the Premiers' Conference which was held in Canberra yesterday.

The **SPEAKER**: The Premier seeks leave to make a statement. I would advise members that leave can be granted only if there is no dissentient voice. Is there a dissentient voice? There being none, leave is granted.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I feel it desirable, in view of the importance of the matters discussed at the Premiers' Conference yesterday and the possible impact on our legislative and administrative programme, to make a statement in this Parliament at the first opportunity.

Members will recall there was great dissatisfaction on the part of the States following the 7th June Premiers' Conference when the Commonwealth said no assistance would be given beyond the formula. The States were told they would have to increase taxes and charges, and reduce expenditure so as to handle their budgetary problems within their own means.

As a result, the Western Australian Government has sought to do this. Likewise, the States were unhappy about the loan

fund allocations but, in our case, we were hopeful that, through close supervision of tendering and construction, and a careful assessment of priorities, we would be able to live within the available loan funds.

However, the inflationary situation has deteriorated further at a dramatic rate, and we now find that the rate of inflation in the civil engineering and construction field is even worse than that which prevails in the day-to-day consumer items and those directly concerned in the Consolidated Revenue items.

The States, prior to yesterday's meeting, made available to the Prime Minister the report of the State Under-Treasurers—working in conjunction with the Commonwealth Treasury representative—on the inflationary situation, and the courses open to State and Federal Governments under their respective constitutional powers.

The 10th July meeting of Premiers in Melbourne was a memorable one because of the unanimity reached amongst the six Premiers, including two Labor Premiers.

It was also significant that at that meeting one of the Premiers—Queensland—was a Country Party Premier, the Acting Premier of New South Wales was a Country Party member, the Acting Premier of Victoria was from the Liberal Party, and the Premiers of South Australia and Tasmania were both Labor Premiers.

In other words—including myself—there was, by coincidence, equal representation amongst the six Premiers and Acting Premiers from the three major political parties in Australia.

The Premiers were unanimous that they were prepared to co-operate with the Commonwealth to the maximum degree in seeking to pool the joint constitutional powers of State and Federal Governments on a co-operative basis to achieve a national strategy to deal with the national crisis of inflation.

This was not on a basis of ceding powers to the Commonwealth, but on a basis of a truly co-operative Federal system.

In this regard, it was not intended that this co-operative use of powers would be confined necessarily to matters of incomes and prices.

It is regretted that there was such a long delay between the 10th July meeting and the conference which took place yesterday, but I understand this was because of the parliamentary commitments of the Commonwealth Government, and this week was the first week when a Premiers' Conference was practicable with the Commonwealth participating through its Prime Minister and the Federal Treasurer.

Each State Premier presented his views in a frank manner.

For practical purposes, the main difference in their presentations largely surrounded their special budgetary problems in their own particular States.

The underlying theme of all States was co-operation with the Commonwealth Government in the formation of a national strategy to deal with inflation.

On behalf of Western Australia, I reported that we had done everything the Commonwealth Government had insisted we do at the 7th June conference.

We had increased—by administrative action, or announced intention by legislative action—a wide range of increases in charges and taxes, to a point where we find it very disturbing.

Almost without exception, these charges and taxes were inflationary and it seemed to be incongruous that, whilst the Commonwealth was preaching the need to curtail inflation, steps were being forced to increase the charges and taxes in highly inflationary areas.

Coincidentally with this, we had undertaken a further severe review of the State Government's 1974-75 expenditure and—even after making further projected cuts to a point where we are concerned about the practicability of retaining reasonable efficiency of service—we still have a deficit of at least \$20 million to face.

Other States had similar stories to tell.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the States had acted in accordance with the Commonwealth's intentions at the 7th June, 1974, conference.

I put the case to the Prime Minister that, together, the Commonwealth and the States could win the battle of inflation.

To do so we have to convince the public, including trade unionists, of our sincerity of purpose—and we must act together.

We would arouse justifiable criticism if, on the one hand, we joined with the Commonwealth Government in a series of legislative and administrative actions to curtail inflation through restraining wage and salary demands and, at the same time, came out with another dose of largely inflationary increases in charges and taxes.

It was the proposition of the States that the Commonwealth would make a very desirable contribution to inflation abatement—and also to the improvement of public understanding and morale—if the Commonwealth could make funds available to the States so as to at least prevent their increasing charges and taxes further.

For most of the day, the Commonwealth was adamant that there would be no assistance to the States; the States were expected to adjust their Budgets within their own means, even if by raising additional charges and taxes.

But the Commonwealth still expected the States to join with it in a number of anti-inflationary measures, particularly those related to achieving restraint in wage and salary increases.

It was not until the last few minutes of the conference that the Prime Minister agreed to submit the States' proposal

to his Federal colleagues when they are undertaking their Budget reviews next week.

In the interests of expedition, and to show the goodwill of the States, it was arranged that, without delay, and without awaiting the Commonwealth decision, working parties of Commonwealth and State officers would immediately proceed to examine what was necessary by way of State and Commonwealth legislative and administrative action under the following headings, and these are the points of immediate concern to members—

- (1) Clarification of wage indexation formula and application (including provision for anomalies that inevitably exist when a new system comes into operation).
- (2) The practicability of tax penalties under both State pay-roll tax and Commonwealth income tax for wage payments in excess of indexation and authorised anomaly payments.
- (3) State legislation to complement Commonwealth Prices Justification Tribunal legislation, including the extension of operations outside of corporations.

By way of explanation perhaps it would be as well if I mentioned that the Commonwealth is able to legislate only in respect of corporations under the Prices Justification Tribunal legislation. Power beyond that rests only with the States. To continue—

- (4) Disallowance by the Prices Justification Tribunal of wages incurred in excess of indexation and authorised anomaly payments. (In other words, these excess payments will not be claimable as a cost item when applications are considered by the tribunal. The first case of this has been announced by the tribunal, but it is felt there might have to be some fortification of this attitude on a Commonwealth-State basis.)
- (5) Joint application by the Commonwealth and States to wage and salary tribunals to limit increases to an indexed amount, plus authorised anomaly corrections.
- (6) Review of the multiplicity of wage and salary tribunals with a view to reducing the number and thus remove some of the present inconsistencies and pressures.
- (7) Review of the Government tendering procedures and results in view of the current unsatisfactory tenders being received in the present inflationary situation and the consequent inadequacy of loan funds available.

Members will appreciate that the present inflationary position helps to resolve the Commonwealth's budgetary problems because of the inflated income tax it receives. At the same time, the State Budgets are destroyed by the very same inflation.

I believe the States put forward a powerful case in a constructive way, and I am hopeful the Commonwealth will change its attitude in the interests of having the maximum co-operation and unity of effort and purpose.

The arrangements under consideration, of course, are intended to prevail only for the period of the emergency. It was the view of all Premiers that the situation is so serious that some party political ideologies on both sides might temporarily have to be set aside.

The interesting point was that the Commonwealth has now conceded that the crisis is not so much one of demand pressures—even if that were the case back in June. It is one of "cost push".

Already we are seeing the signs of nationwide unemployment generating at a disturbing rate, with the Federal Minister for Labour saying that more is to follow before a decline will commence. At the same time, we are not likely to see any abatement of the "cost pressures" unless Commonwealth-State action can be taken in co-operation.

I felt it desirable to indicate the wide range of legislative and administrative action which might be necessary, assuming that the working parties are able quickly to get to grips with the practical problems.

I emphasised at the conference that the public are looking for quick action at the national level, and they are wanting action taken which is clear-cut and simple so that it will be universally understood.

I believe we can reasonably expect general support for this type of approach, even though there will inevitably be some of the minority militant forces which will seek to embarrass the overall effort for restraint.

Employers will certainly be discouraged from granting increases outside of the limits agreed within the Commonwealth and State policies, if they know they will not get any acknowledgment for these higher payments from the Prices Tribunal, and they will be subject to penalty taxation both in terms of pay-roll tax and company income tax.

I appreciate the fact that the Deputy Premier was able to accompany me in view of the very important and wide range of legislative and administrative policy matters involved. And, Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition and the other members of the House for their co-operation in allowing me to make this statement.

QUESTIONS (36): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

2. SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Recommendation of Committee

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

When is a decision to be expected by the Minister for Education in respect of recommendation No. 26 of the committee that recently investigated school bus services?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The committee's report is at present being printed and will shortly be distributed to interested parties for their consideration and comment.

No decisions will be made on any of the recommendations until after this has occurred.

3. PENSIONERS

Firewood Permits

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Forests:

In reference to the free license for old age pensioners would he please explain why such a license prohibits the licensee from taking wood from a fire killed tree as often such wood is more conveniently available for collection by an aged person?

Mr RIDGE replied:

This clause was originally included in all firewood licenses in an endeavour to prevent persons setting fire to trees to kill them for future use as firewood. The retention of this clause in the free license for old age pensioners will be reviewed.

4. STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE

S. Salinovich: Legal Advice

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Labour:

(1) With reference to S. Salinovich MP/3248, has the general manager of SGIO received the legal advice he was seeking as referred to in the ultimate paragraph of his letter to me concerning the abovenamed of date 7th June, 1974?

(2) When may I expect further advice herein?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The General Manager of SGIO has today written to Mr Evans.

5. JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK

Tearooms Lease

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Lands:

Further to my question 9 of Thursday, 1st August, 1974 concerning the tearooms at John Forrest National Park—

(a) has the matter reached arbitration;

(b) if not, what action is being taken by the National Parks Board to have the matter finalised so that the inconvenience which has been caused to patrons of the park for the past seven months may be alleviated?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(a) No.

(b) Preliminary arrangements for the hearing have been finalised but a date has not yet been established. In addition the board is in the process of examining the position regarding re-leasing the premises.

6. POLICE STATION

Mundaring

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Police:

Are there any proposals to build a new police station at Mundaring in the near future?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Mundaring Shire Council recently approached me on this matter and was advised that funds were not available for replacement in the near future.

7. EASTERN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Upgrading

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

Further to the Minister's statement advising of the introduction of fourth-year secondary classes at Eastern Hills high school—

(1) What amount of funds has been allocated to the school for the necessary upgrading to accommodate fourth-year studies in 1975?

(2) How many additional teachers will be allocated to the school, and what will be their classifications?

(3) Will the allocation of funds referred to in (1) be in addition to the \$100 000

already allocated to the school through the Australian Schools Commission, for additions and improvements during this year, 1974, but as yet uncommenced?

- (4) When are the improvements referred to in (3) likely to commence and when is it anticipated they will be completed?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No additional funds have been allocated to the school, but temporary accommodation will be provided as necessary.
- (2) Several additional staff members will be added to the school after consultation with the principal with regard to subject needs. Their classifications will be master or mistress, and acting senior master or acting senior mistress.
- (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) It is hoped to start construction in October for occupation early in the new school year.

8. DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS

Commonwealth Grant

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

Would the Minister agree to provide interested members with—

- (a) the list of 20 metropolitan schools classed as significantly disadvantaged by the committee under the chairmanship of the Director-General of Education;
- (b) the list of the additional 24 schools operating under some disadvantage;
- (c) the list of 24 rural schools, considered to be disadvantaged, which will benefit from the Australian Government's grant for disadvantaged schools?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (a) to (c) A general release of information relating to schools categorised as disadvantaged for funding purposes under the schools commission is expected shortly as a result of action taken by the Commonwealth Minister for Education.

It would be unwise to make any announcements prior to the contemplated general release of information.

9.

BIRD DEALERS

Licenses

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) How many bird dealers are licensed at the present time?
- (2) What are the reasons for restricting the number of bird dealers?
- (3) When does annual registration take place?
- (4) Has there been a reduction in the number of dealers, over the past two years?
- (5) Have new licenses been issued over the past 12 months, and if so, to whom?
- (6) Under what conditions may a dealer have his or her license cancelled?
- (7) Would he table the regulations under which the Fisheries and Fauna Department control the licensing and operations of bird dealers?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) 31.
- (2) (a) Conservation of bird life.
- (b) The number of bird trappers and the numbers of birds they are permitted to take from the wild are controlled. The bird dealers now licensed are considered sufficient to handle the legal take.
- (3) At the date of expiry of each individual license.
- (4) Yes. There has been a net reduction of three.
- (5) New licenses have been issued during the last twelve months to—

Mr J. Wheat for premises at 181 Sevenoaks Street, Queens Park.

Mr L. C. Kane for premises at 51 Walter Road Dianella.

Two licenses were transferred during this period.

- (6) Section 15 (2) (b) of the Fauna Conservation Act provides—
- (b) "Where the holder of a license contravenes or fails to comply with any conditions endorsed upon or attached to the license, the Minister may, at any time and from time to time by notice in writing given to the holder of a license, cancel the license or suspend it for such period as the Minister thinks fit".
- (7) I table a copy of the Fauna Conservation Act and a copy of the Fauna Conservation regulations.

I direct the Member's attention to sections 15 and 17 of the Act and regulation 13.

The papers were tabled (see paper No. 153).

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Meat Inspection: Financial Losses

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

- (1) During the past two years, has any shire council recouped meat inspection fees of a greater amount than the cost of the service provided?
- (2) If so, which local authority or authorities, and which are the abattoirs operating within the authority or those authorities?
- (3) In what way does a local authority have discretion as to the meat inspection fee that may be charged for the service provided?
- (4) Would he list the number of cattle, sheep, lambs and pigs slaughtered at the respective abattoirs referred to under (2) for the past two years?
- (5) If he has the information, would he show the total man hours per year for the past two years allocated to meat inspection by the local authority or authorities referred to in (2) and the salary being paid to meat inspectors employed by the authority or authorities?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) A study of figures submitted by local authorities is presently being undertaken. These indicate that no local authority recouped the full cost of meat inspection services in 1973-74. Figures for 1972-73 are not available.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The local authority is bound to observe the regulations without the exercise of discretion.
- (4) and (5) This information will be contained in the report which is now in preparation, but will not be available for submission to the Minister for Health for three or four weeks.

11. STATE FORESTS

Area, and Pine Plantations

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

- (1) What is the area of State Forests Nos. 1 and 2?
- (2) What is the area of pine plantations in each of these State Forests?

- (3) Is it planned to expand the current area under pines?
- (4) What is the current policy in regard to the management of State Forests Nos. 1 and 2, particularly in regard to the remaining areas of tuart forest?
- (5) Have State Forests Nos. 1 and 2 been enlarged since 1962 by the acquisition of private land?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No. 1—833 hectares.
No. 2—2 046 hectares.
- (2) No. 1—Nil.
No. 2—562 hectares.
- (3) No.
- (4) The existing areas of pure tuart forest occurring naturally on State Forests No. 1 and 2 will be conserved as a forest park. Operations will be confined to protection and ensuring of regeneration necessary to maintain and perpetuate the present floral and faunal ecological systems. The only future fellings will be prophylactic. Recreational and other public usage is being examined and will be catered for where possible.
- (5) Yes. An area of 192 hectares of tuart forest was acquired.

12. LUDLOW TUART FOREST

Conservation Through Reserves Committee

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

- (1) What are the recommendations of the Conservation Through Reserves Committee in respect of the Ludlow Tuart Forest?
- (2) Who are the members of that committee, and what "interests" do they represent?
- (3) On what occasions has it met?
- (4) Has it presented an interim or final report?
- (5) If (4) is in any way in the affirmative, will the Minister release the report for public consumption?
- (6) If (4) is in the negative, when is an interim or final report expected?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Recommendations will be contained in the final report of the committee.
- (2) Dr W. D. L. Ride (Chairman), Director of W.A. Museum; Mr J. F. Morgan, Surveyor-General; Dr B. E. Balme, Reader in Geology, WA University; Professor R. T. Appleyard, Professor of Economic History, WA University.

Members were not chosen as representative of any specific "interest" but rather for their expertise.

- (3) The committee first met on 15th February, 1972, and has met on some 40 occasions since.
- (4) Preliminary drafts of some sections have been made available to the Environmental Protection Authority.
- (5) The final report will be made public after consideration by the Environmental Protection Authority and Cabinet.
- (6) The final report with the exception of the metropolitan and Kimberley regions is expected to be presented to the Environmental Protection Authority within the next month. The committee will then begin consideration of the metropolitan and Kimberley regions.

13. FERTILISERS

Rail Haulage

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

What tonnages of fertiliser were railed during the year 1973-74 from the following stations—

- (a) Geraldton;
- (b) Kwinana;
- (c) Esperance;
- (d) Bassendean;
- (e) Picton Junction;
- (f) Albany?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

tonnes

- (a) 47 869
- (b) 494 174
- (c) 80
- (d) 60 689
- (e) 110 790
- (f) 76 853

14. LAND

Release for Agriculture

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

- (1) Is the newspaper article contained in the 8th August, 1974 edition of *The West Australian* which states that the Government has set up a subcommittee of Cabinet to consider the release of further land for farm development, correct?
- (2) If so, what specific areas of the State are being considered for release?
- (3) When is it expected that a decision will be taken on the release of such areas?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All areas of the State will be considered.
- (3) After Cabinet has had the opportunity to consider the report by the subcommittee.

15.

POLICE

Land Clearing: Blasting

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

- (1) Is it contemplated that any additional restrictions will be placed on farmers who wish to carry out their own blasting with explosives in the course of clearing operations?
- (2) If so, what will these restrictions entail, and from when would they apply?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is contemplated that no more than two persons shall be engaged on such blasting and that the operation is to be at a safe distance from any road or dwelling. Proposed amendments to the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act are now being drafted.

16.

CATTLE INDUSTRY

Kimberley: Government Assistance

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for the North West:

- (1) Is the report contained in the *Northern Times* of 8th August, 1974 that he has received a submission from the Pastoralists and Graziers Association seeking assistance from the State Government to prevent a collapse of the Kimberley cattle industry, correct?
- (2) If so, what are the components of the crises referred to in the submission?
- (3) What recommendations were made in the submission?
- (4) What action has been taken by the Government to alleviate the position?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) The reference in the *Northern Times* of 8th August, 1974, relates to a submission by the Pastoralists and Graziers Association which was presented with a view to certain proposed action being taken to arrest any problems which may eventuate.
- (3) A summary of the full recommendations is that—
 - (a) Consideration be given to reduced back-loading freight rate from Kimberley ports to Fremantle.

- (b) Special arrangements be made with WA Meat Export Works to have northern meat held in their freezers.
- (c) The Minister for Transport consult with the Knutsen Line with the view to the Line modifying its requirements.
- (d) Consultation be held between authorities involved to ascertain whether shipping and handling costs could be mitigated.
- (e) Consideration be given to the forming of a representative committee of the Government, meat works, Pastoralists and Graziers Association and such other persons as the Minister may care to nominate, to review the position continually.

- (4) No crisis has arisen but in anticipation of any problem which could eventuate, the submission is the subject of current joint consideration by the Ministers for Works, Transport and the North West.

17. RAILWAYS

Manjimup Barracks

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

- (1) Has the WAGR obtained a site in Manjimup for the purpose of constructing a railwaymen's barracks?
- (2) If so, precisely where is the site located?
- (3) Have plans and specifications for a new barracks to be built at Manjimup been prepared?
- (4) If so, when will work on the new barracks commence?
- (5) Will such barracks supersede those existing at Bridgetown?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Formalities for purchase of land are being completed.
- (2) No. 3, Muir Street.
- (3) No.
- (4) Present planning provides for construction to commence in the first quarter of 1975.
- (5) Irrespective of any other circumstances, barracks will be required at Manjimup for provision of wood chip train services.

18. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

Route: Alterations

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Since 30th March, 1974 have there been any alterations to the route

of the Kwinana-Balga 330kV transmission line?

- (2) If so, will he indicate the areas where changes have been made?
- (3) Has the dispute between the SEC and residents in the Caversham area been resolved?
- (4) If so, will he indicate the method of settlement?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) Five landowners in Caversham are involved. Settlement has been reached with one. Negotiations with the other landowners are progressing.
- (4) By Grant of Easement.

19. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Charges: Increased Revenue

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

Will he advise the anticipated increased revenue to be obtained by the State Electricity Commission over a 12 month period resulting from the announced increased electricity charges?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Based on estimated sales for the twelve months from 1st August, 1974, to 31st July, 1975, the anticipated increased revenue resulting from increased electricity charges is \$10 400 000.

20. LOW-GRADE COAL

Conversion into Gas

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is he aware that a British engineering company, Wellman Engineering, claims that by converting low-grade coal into gas by its latest two-stage conversion plant it can reduce manufacturers' energy costs by 30 per cent or more?
- (2) If so, will he advise if it would be possible to utilise Collie coal in similar circumstances?
- (3) Have any inquiries been initiated by the Fuel and Power Commission regarding the possibility of converting Collie coal into gas?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes. The gas producing plant referred to by the Member is of a producer-gas type and is one of a number of such designs being offered now by manufacturers throughout the world.

(2) It would be possible to use Collie coal in a plant of this type but the economics are not necessarily as straightforward as implied in the Member's question.

(3) A committee of private industry and Government representatives has been set up by the Advisory Council at the request of the Fuel and Power Commission.

A detailed examination is being made of the techniques available and costs involved in the production of gas or liquid hydro-carbons from Collie coal.

21. GINGIN-DONGARA ROAD

Sealing

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the present timetable for completion of the blacktop road between Gingin and Dongara?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Priming is programmed for completion by the end of November, 1974 with the exception of the approaches to a bridge over the Eneabba Creek, which should be completed in March 1975.

22. HEALTH LABORATORIES

Rationalisation of Services

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

- (1) What action has been taken to rationalise laboratory services in this State following consideration of the Hackett report?
- (2) If no action has been taken, what is proposed?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) A combined State Health and Hospital clinical chemistry service has been established at the Perth Medical Centre under the scientific direction of Professor Curnow. Similar arrangements are in hand for the haematology services.

(2) Answered by (1).

23. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Government Assistance

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Will he state each and every step—

(a) he;

(b) his Government,

has taken directly for the purpose of giving assistance or advantage to private enterprise?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

It would take more time than Mr Speaker would permit for me to answer the Member's question about "each and every step"—even though it might be interesting to remind the Member and his colleagues of the results achieved in the State and national interests over a period of years, through a basic Liberal/Country Party policy of encouraging private enterprise.

The Government's policy—as stated in policy speeches and on numerous other occasions, and as is fundamental to the policies of the Government Parties—is to give encouragement to private enterprise in all its forms.

For example, the policy of the Department of Industrial Development is to assist private enterprise. The Minister for Industrial Development and his department do this day after day, and to describe every step would be impossible within reason.

For the Member's information, the following are examples of the way in which private enterprise has been assisted by the Government during its short term in office—

- (1) 2 258 firms were contacted in writing about shortages. As a result, 105 firms have been assisted directly.
- (2) 11 firms were assisted to participate in the recent national boat show in Melbourne.
- (3) Assistance was provided to 8 participants in the WA products and services display in the Darwin Show.
- (4) 21 local firms were introduced to the recent Libyan trade delegation in WA as a result of which a Libyan farm project is currently receiving assistance from local firms and various Government departments.
- (5) 3 additional decentralised firms have received a rail freight concession and a further firm is in receipt of an interest subsidy.
- (6) Agreements for sale of land at Kewdale and other industrial areas have been concluded with 18 firms.
- (7) A new publication called "Enterprise" has been launched which will assist industry by describing its achievements and potential to a wide audience. In addition, 34 firms have received coverage in the weekly enterprise half page in the *Daily News*.

- (8) Extensive media promotion was carried out for Western Australia week. Fashion parades featuring Western Australian fashions were held at five large shopping centres.
- (9) In the month of July alone, 15 local manufacturers and 8 major retail outlets were visited by the local products officer of the Department of Industrial Development to advise on the use of the WA symbol and outline the main points of the department's local products campaign.
- (10) In addition the demand for local products used by both Government and private organisations has been intensified through the efforts of the Cabinet subcommittee on local products.
- (11) Surveys of local industry, including the clothing industry, boat industry and paper products industry, have been carried out to ascertain the requirements of industry and to assist in resolving any problems that are being experienced.
- (12) Market projections and relocation studies have been undertaken for a substantial manufacturing industry in Western Australia.
- (13) A number of firms received assistance financially by guaranteeing loans and applying various concessions.

I think I should stop at that point. We will have instalment two tomorrow if Opposition members would like it.

24. OFFICIAL PROSECUTIONS (DEFENDANTS' COSTS) ACT

Claims

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

- (1) How many claims for costs have been made under the provisions of the Official Prosecutions (Defendants' Costs) Act, 1973?
- (2) Of the claims made, how many have been—
 - (a) wholly denied;
 - (b) partly denied.
 by reason of the provisions of subsection 6 (a) of the said Act?
- (3) What is the total sum thus far paid out by way of costs under the said Act?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The procedure required by the Act is that when a defendant is successful by reason of the decision of the Summary Court, the Summary Court shall make an order as to the amount of the costs.

It would not be possible to determine the number of persons who are eligible to claim under the Act without studying all the court records since the proclamation of the Act. This would involve searching the records of all the courts coming within the scope of the Act, that is, 121 Courts of Petty Sessions, 116 Children's Courts and appeals to the Supreme Court as approved under the Act.

The only advice received by the CLD in respect to claims is in the form of a certificate under the Act forwarded by the court for a successful defendant to be reimbursed costs.

To date 87 such certificates have been received and paid.

- (3) \$5 949.56.

25. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Secondhand Car Parts: Complaints

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

How many complaints have the Consumer Protection Bureau received relating to the use of secondhand parts in smash repairs?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The bureau does not keep separate statistics on complaints relating to secondhand parts concerning smash repairs. However, such complaints are absolutely minimal; probably only one or two. The Commissioner has had the question brought to his attention by a number of organisations and at present is discussing it with the insurance industry.

26. HEALTH

Fruit Drinks: Juice Content

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

Under what legislation or regulation is the quantity of genuine fruit juice in so called "fruit drinks" determined?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Food and Drug sub-regulation P.14.007.

27. **CORAL**
Picking

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) To what extent is coral picking a practice on the Western Australian coast?
- (2) Is legislative action to control this practice contemplated?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) There has been only one reported instance of taking coral for sale on the Western Australian coast in recent years. Before coral can be taken for sale, a license must be obtained from the Department of Fisheries and Fauna. It may be assumed that increased tourism in recent years has led to an increase in coral picking for non-commercial reasons.
- (2) Yes.

28. **EDUCATION**

Isolated Children: Use of Sound Tapes

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

- (1) Are special sound tapes used by the Education Department to assist isolated children who are being taught at home?
- (2) How much is being provided by the Australian Government per student through its assistance for isolated children scheme?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No. A pilot experiment is in operation at the Meekatharra school of the air in grades 6 and 7 social studies. This programme has involved the making of suitable tapes and strip films and the provision of re-play equipment for each child. The extension of the experiment will depend on the school's capacity to produce the aids and the provision of the necessary equipment.
- (2) Three allowances are available:
 - (i) Boarding allowances which may be \$350 per annum basic and extend up to \$1004 per annum according to family circumstances.
 - (ii) Correspondence allowances of \$200 per annum with a further reimbursement of approved expenditure of up to \$150 per annum.
 - (iii) Second home assistance of \$350 for one child, \$700 for two children and \$1050 for three or more children in the family that maintains a second home in order to send the children to school.

29. **MUSEUMS AND NATIONAL COLLECTIONS**

Government Co-operation

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

- (1) Has the Government been asked to co-operate in the work of the national committee established to inquire into museums and national collections?
- (2) If "Yes" what form will such co-operation take?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No. As far as I can ascertain, there has been no correspondence between the Premier and the Prime Minister, or with the Special Minister of State under whose responsibility the inquiry is being held.
- (2) In response to a public advertisement issued by the committee the trustees of the Western Australian Museum are—
 - (i) preparing a submission;
 - (ii) expecting that a visit will be made to Western Australia by the committee as part of its inquiry;
 - (iii) offering the facilities of the Western Australian Museum as the only museum in Australia with extensive maritime archaeological experience;
 - (iv) a National study conference to be held on maritime archaeology to enable the committee to be fully informed on this matter which is among its specific terms of reference.

30. **SHORT-NECKED TORTOISE**

Effect of Clay Excavations

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

- (1) Has he received a report into the effects of clay excavations upon the habitat of the short-necked tortoise at Ellen Brook?
- (2) If "Yes" what were the recommendations contained in the report, and what action is being undertaken?
- (3) If "No" when is the report expected and when will its recommendations be made public?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) I expect a report from my department within the next three weeks. I cannot undertake to make such a report public until I have seen its contents as I expect it could contain trade confidences.

31. **HEALTH***Halogenated Hydroxyquinolines:
Use in Medicines*

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

Are medicines containing halogenated hydroxyquinolines available for sale in Western Australia without being prescribed by a medical practitioner?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Yes, for external use.

32. **MOTOR VEHICLES***Fuel Consumption Economies*

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

Is there any intention by the standards association or any other appropriate body to indicate on a metal plate in vehicles the relative fuel consumption economies of various motor vehicles so that consumers will be protected and fuel will be saved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No.

33. **BUSSELL HIGHWAY-
NEWTON ROAD JUNCTION***Roadworks*

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Transport:

Would he advise the cost and projected completion date of roadworks in progress at Bussell Highway-Newtown Road junction?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$250 000. Weather permitting, works at present in progress will be completed by the end of August. The balance of the work will be undertaken later in the year when drier conditions prevail.

34. **ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL,
SUBIACO***Teaching Institution*

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

- (1) Has a firm decision been made to use St. John of God, Subiaco, as a teaching hospital?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) when will it be first used for this purpose;
 - (b) how many students will be accommodated;
 - (c) how many teaching beds will be provided;
 - (d) what additional clerical staff will need to be appointed?

- (3) What is the cost to the Government by way of—
 - (a) capital costs;
 - (b) subsidy per bed;
 - (c) other?

- (4) Will the Government have any say in the management of the hospital and, if so, in what way?
- (5) Does the proposal have the endorsement of THAC?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The Government has decided that St John of God Hospital, Subiaco, should be used for teaching.
- (2) (a) to (d) It is anticipated that teaching will be introduced at the hospital in 1975. The details of the arrangements to be made have not been finalised.
- (3) (a) to (c) The likely costs to the Government are being investigated.
- (4) The relationship between the hospital and the Government has not yet been determined.
- (5) Yes.

35.

EDUCATION*Facilities: Community Use*

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

- (1) Who are the members of the committee established by the former Minister in 1972 to investigate the community use of existing educational facilities and to make recommendations for future design to incorporate increased community use of facilities?
- (2) On what occasions has the committee met?
- (3) Have any recommendations been made to the Minister by the committee?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), will he table the recommendations?
- (5) What action, if any, has been taken on these matters by the Education Department or by the architectural division of the Public Works Department?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The members of the committee were—

Messrs.:

H. W. Dettman—Chairman

J. H. Barton (Education Department)

Dr D. Mossenson (Education Department)

Messrs.:

F. Bell (Community Welfare Department)

W. English (National Fitness Council)

M. Williams (Public Works Department)

L. McCarrey (Treasury Department)

Dr M. Keys (Youth Council)

- (2) The committee met on 16th August, 1972.
- (3) A report without containing recommendations was submitted to the Minister for Education on 4th December, 1972.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) The building of school halls and the provision of sporting facilities in high schools in recent years have been planned with community as well as school use in mind.

36. WANNEROO ROAD

Upgrading

Mr NANOVIICH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When will the upgrading of Wanneroo Road as a dual carriageway be completed to the point of Royal Street?
- (2) Will there be any prolonged delay because of insufficient funds being available or will there be sufficient funds to continue the construction to this point?
- (3) As the initial format was to construct Wanneroo Road as a dual carriageway to the point of Green Street, approximately one mile south of Royal Street, will funds be available so that works will continue without further delay?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) This work is being carried out by the Stirling City Council and it is understood that it should be completed by the end of 1974.
- (2) It is anticipated that funds will be available for the completion to Royal Street, subject of course to Commonwealth funds being provided in legislation currently before the Federal Parliament.
- (3) Plans for this section have not yet been agreed upon and no agreement has been reached on funding.

QUESTIONS (8): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. IMMIGRATION

Building Company Nomination Scheme

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Has he seen a report in this morning's edition of *The West Australian*, following the debate

in the Parliament last night, which reads as follows—

Mr Bryce said he asked Mr Grayden on August 1 whether he or his department had received representations from any building company asking for the conditions relating to the briefing of immigrants to be dropped.

Mr Grayden had replied "No." Mr Bryce said that he had later received in the post a letter which proved beyond doubt that Mr Grayden had received a request?

Is that statement substantially correct?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for Vasse for some prior notice of this question. The answer is as follows—

The assertion attributed to the member for Ascot is completely false. There have been no representations by Landall or any other building company to drop the practice of interviewing migrants at the Department of Immigration.

2. ERMOLENKO, MR GEORGI

Political Asylum, and Involvement of Vladimir Alexandrov

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

As the man known as Vladimir Alexandrov, an alleged member of the KGB, did not obey the writ of habeas-corpus served on the 13th August, 1974, and as an application to Mr Justice Wickham in Public Chambers today for an order that a bench warrant issue for the arrest of Alexandrov for contempt of court was made—

- (1) Will the Minister assure the House that every step will be taken to ensure that Alexandrov and the boy known as Georgi Ermolenko remain within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court so that any order made can be put into effect and not frustrated?

- (2) If the allegation that Alexandrov is a member of the KGB is shown to be true, will the Minister assure the House that representation will be made to the Federal Government that this man be declared persona non grata?

The SPEAKER: Has the Minister had prior notice of this question?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

The Minister for Justice has asked me to thank the honourable member for having given him notice of the question. I notice that there are some slight alterations on the typed question which were made in the Minister's office but which do not affect the answer to any extent. The answer is as follows —

- (1) Mr Alexandrov may be a diplomatic agent and, as such, entitled to immunity from the jurisdiction of the courts pursuant to Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which is now given the force of law in Australia by the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act, 1967, of the Commonwealth (s.7(1)). Further consideration will be given when the determination of the court is known.

As far as Ermolenko is concerned the State will take all action available to it to ensure that any orders made out of the Supreme Court will be complied with.

- (2) Yes.

3. DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION

Missing Files

Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Immigration—

- (1) Is the Minister proceeding with his intention to have an investigation made into the disappearance of confidential files from his department?
- (2) If so, will he specifically have investigated a statement by the member for Ascot, that he received in the post a copy of a letter from departmental files?
- (3) If so, will he cause the investigation to extend further into the possibility that a member or members may have unauthorised files or photostated information from such files in their possession?
- (4) Depending on the outcome of the investigation, will the Minister give consideration to a subsequent parliamentary inquiry on the grounds that the suspicion of what could amount to political espionage by a member or members of this House is seriously damaging to the reputation of all its members?
- (5) Will the Minister raise in Cabinet the general question of the security of Government files and the priv-

acy of documents relating to migrants and other private individuals from the prying eyes of what have become known in these Watergate days as political "plumbers" conspiring to develop lines of leakage and turn them into pipelines of illicit information?

Mr B. T. Burke: It does not even sound like you!

Mr Jamieson: W. W. Mitchell!

Dr DADOUR: I continue with part (6) of the question—

- (6) Does the Minister agree that every step should be taken to ensure that the reputation of this House should be protected from all taint of such sinister implications as the claim by the member for Ascot that he has been in receipt of correspondence, or copies of correspondence, directed personally to the Minister for Immigration?

Mr T. H. Jones: It does not even sound a bit like you!

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the member for Subiaco for prior notice of the question. The answer is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes. I am deeply disturbed by the member for Ascot's claim to have received a letter or a copy of a letter which was addressed to me. I consider that his manner of referring to this letter implies that it is normal for members of the House to have illicit access to ministerial correspondence, and I strongly deny that such activity is either normal or acceptable or creditable to any member so involved.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: You may find some of these missing files in the Premier's office.

4. TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION

Mr R. Cowles: *Warrant of Arrest*

Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Police:

Following Press reports that a warrant was issued on the Secretary of the Transport Workers' Union (Mr R. Cowles) for non-payment of debts, will he advise—

- (a) If the warrant was proceeded with, and
- (b) if not, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the member for notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (a) A warrant was granted and withdrawn by the magistrate two days later for procedural reasons.
- (b) Fresh judgment summonses are to be returned on the 5th September.

5. HILLMAN SCHOOL

Completion

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

In the light of the former Government's decision to erect Hillman Primary School and have it completed ready for the beginning of the 1975 school year, will he give an undertaking to have this school constructed and ready for occupation at the beginning of the first term in 1975?

The SPEAKER: May I ask the honourable member whether he has given any notice of this question?

Mr BARNETT: I have, Mr Speaker.

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I cannot answer this question, because the honourable member gave his notice yesterday; however he did not ask his question. I do not think he rose and therefore you, Mr Speaker, did not call him. Subsequently I returned the answer to the Minister for Education. I therefore ask the honourable member to put his question on the notice paper.

6. DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION

Missing Letter

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

I apologise for not having given him notice of this question, but I ask—

During last night's debate, does the Minister remember referring to a letter which he said was missing from his office? Does he also remember referring to the fact that he spent some time looking for that letter? Could the Minister please inform the House that he knew the letter was missing, seeing that he had received it?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

In reply to the member for Balga, may I ask him to put the question on the notice paper?

Mr T. H. Jones: Fair go!

Mr O'Neill: We had all this last night until after midnight.

Mr May: Your people started it.

Mr O'Neill: Who moved the amendment to the Address-in-Reply motion?

Mr May: You started it today.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ascot.

7. DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION

Missing Files

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Immigration:

I wish to ask a two-part question of the Minister for Immigration. I cannot give him the same notice as the member for Subiaco and some other member gave him.

The SPEAKER: Let me interrupt. Just to clear up members' thoughts on this matter, when I ask some members whether or not they have given notice of their questions, this in the main applies to questions asked of Ministers who are representing Ministers in another place.

I see no real problems in regard to asking questions without notice of Ministers in this Chamber in relation to their own portfolios if they are prepared to answer them. The member for Ascot.

Mr BRYCE: I would like to ask the Minister for Immigration a two-part question as follows—

(1) Are there any departmental files missing and, if so, how many?

(2) In view of the way in which he has changed his mind so many times in the last few hours in this Parliament, will he indicate now whether he is prepared to table the files he refused to table in this House?

Mr O'Connor: You would be a great one to ask that!

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) and (2) In reply to the member for Ascot, may I remind him that in a letter to me he made the allegation about missing files.

Mr Bryce: How many are missing? Can the Minister be straight?

Mr GRAYDEN: The member ought to know.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ascot has asked a question. I would ask other members to stop asking questions while the Minister is answering the original question.

Mr GRAYDEN: What was the second question?

Mr O'Neill: How many files are missing, and will you table them?

Mr GRAYDEN: We are having an inquiry into the matter and I remind the House it was the member for Ascot who made the allegation. I have written to him twice asking for details which will assist us in the inquiry and he has declined to give the information.

Mr Bryce: You said last night you would kick off with an inquiry; this was three months ago.

The SPEAKER: Order! Are there any notices of motion?

8. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FILE

Production by Former Member for Moore

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police:

I wish to ask the Minister for Police a question without notice.

The SPEAKER: I called for notices of motion. The member for Victoria Park was slow in rising to his feet. While the member for Ascot was being highly disorderly and ignoring my call for order, I called for notices of motion. I just point out that if the member for Ascot and other members continue in the way they are doing this will lead to a disorderly state of affairs which should not be countenanced by the House itself. Actually, when the Speaker calls for order and there is obviously disorder, other members of the Chamber have a responsibility themselves, together with the Speaker, in calling a member to order, without being disorderly in turn. I will have one more question without notice. The member for Victoria Park.

Mr DAVIES: This is a question without any notice to the Minister for Police. I wish to ask him—

If he is instituting an inquiry through the Police Department, which has been forecast by the Minister for Immigration, will he also have an investigation made as to how the Hon. Edgar Lewis, a former Minister for Education, was able to produce departmental files in this House in 1972 during a debate on an Education Act Amendment Bill, and ascertain if they had come to that member through normal channels?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

As I am unaware of the details the honourable member has just given me, if he would like to give me the facts I will have a look at the matter.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr Moller, leave of absence for six weeks granted to Mr Harman (Maylands) on the ground of urgent private business.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Fuel, Energy and Power Resources Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Fuel and Energy), and read a first time.

2. Town Planning and Development Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Rushton (Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 13th August, on the following motion by Mrs Craig—

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

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

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park) [5.27 p.m.]: I appreciate the opportunity to take part in this debate. I will take a leaf out of the book of the new members—I will be noncontroversial and not give the Deputy Premier any cause for worry.

Mr McPharlin: I have my notebook handy.

Mr DAVIES: Firstly, like other members who have spoken, I would like to extend to you, Sir, my congratulations on your appointment as Speaker of this House. I have sat in the House under the chairmanship of a variety of Speakers, and I am quite certain that the guidance we get from your hands will be equal to any, if not better than some, I have enjoyed in the past 13 years or so I have been in this House. Already you have indicated that you intend to be impartial. Actually I should not have said that because it could be regarded as a reflection on the Chair and a breach of Standing Orders.

I also congratulate those members who have newly entered the House. We have so many new members this session it is hard to keep up with all of them. I hope they will not be disillusioned too soon, because at times the situation in Parliament becomes frustrating, and I sometimes wonder whether we are making any progress; but although the democracy under which we operate has many faults, it is the best system we have found so far.

I note the various changes that have come to this Parliament since we last met. Of course, the most notable has been the continued decline of the National Alliance, the National Party, or the Country Party, or such as it was when we last met here. At the wedding of that party and the D.L.P. last year I remember congratulations were flying around to the bride and groom—we were not quite sure who was the bride and who was the groom—and it was considered to be a very fine marriage by some people at least. There were those who said it would not last and they were the ones who were proved to be right.

It is probably a matter of no small pride to some people that the alliance, or whatever it was, lasted such a short time. It is plain to see that both parties thought they would probably gain some advantage. Probably the Country Party thought it could get some city organisation, and the DLP thought it could get the weight of the Country Party behind it in the country. But of course what we did see was that the public are not easily hoodwinked and as a result of the election it was found that the two parties were not compatible. It seems that here we have Senator Murphy's main ground for divorce being put into operation. We find an irrecoverable breakup of a marriage because it does not seem that the two parties will come together again.

I do not know what will happen to the Country Party, because it seems that it is not welcome—at least by the Liberal Party—in the other States.

Mr Nanovich: I thought you were not going to be controversial?

Mr DAVIES: I am not being controversial; I am merely stating facts.

Mr Stephens: The facts are from the wrong source, because they are wrong.

Mr DAVIES: The position is that I do not think we could ever welcome members of the Country Party into the Labor Party, and indeed, the Labor Party will continue to allocate its preferences elsewhere, with the result we will see the demise of the Country Party, and the sooner we return to the two-party system the better it will be.

I think the main result of the last election was that the electorates more or less crystallised the two-party system once again.

In supporting the motion I find there is not a great deal to comment on because, although it was a very worthy Speech, it did not tell us much. It said the usual things which had to be said but, of course, it is not what is in the Governor's Speech at any one time which is of concern to us; it is what is left out of it which is really of the utmost concern.

Mr May: And that was plenty.

Mr DAVIES: As the member for Clontarf said, from what we hear, plenty was left out.

I noticed the speech contained many words like "considering", "studying", and "examining". This indicates of course that it could be some considerable time, if at all, before legislation in regard to many of the aspects mentioned is brought before Parliament.

I thought that two matters in particular would have been included. One is in relation to the need to alter the Town Planning and Development Act, not along the lines already indicated in the Press, but along other lines; but I will refer to that again later. The other legislation I thought would have been mentioned is in regard to the reconstitution of the Cancer Council. That should have been reconstituted about two years ago. When I was Minister for Health we did not proceed with it because we thought it was the wrong time to reconstitute the council when a general appeal was being held. However, I believe that if the council is to do the job it is supposed to do it must be reconstituted into two sections; and I hope the Government will proceed in that direction before too long.

Another amendment I thought might have been forecast was an amendment to the Health Act. Last year or the year before we amended that Act to provide for the use of dental therapists. However, unfortunately we used a word which should not have been included and it was not picked up by anyone at the time. Because of this we find that dental therapists are precluded from being used at the Perth Dental Hospital.

The dental therapists have already shown their great value in the work they do for private dentists and I believe they could be used most advantageously in the Perth Dental Hospital. Therefore I hope the Government will introduce some amending legislation so that these very useful people can be utilised in the dental scheme at the Perth Dental Hospital.

Mr O'Neil: I am not being controversial, but did you have every piece of proposed legislation mentioned in the Governor's Speech?

Mr DAVIES: No; but, as I have said, these are some of the amendments which I thought would have been readily available because they were on the slips, so to speak, and therefore would have received a mention.

Mr O'Neil: Naturally every Minister thinks his own legislation is more important than anyone else's.

Mr DAVIES: Ministers opposite have that trouble, too?

Mr O'Neil: Yes.

Mr DAVIES: I wish to say a few words about some remarks made from time to time in the House. I am careful to ensure that the remarks have been made to this debate and not to an amendment, but, like other members, I want to mention something about the very sad episode which occurred in Forrest Place on the 25th March. Everyone will have his own views about that meeting and I am quite certain no-one's views will be changed by anything I will say.

However, I was very sad indeed to see the way in which the Government tried to white-wash the farmers and pretend they were not there. When people arrive with printed placards; when we see faces we know amongst the crowd; when it has been announced in the news media the day before that the farmers will be there; when people ring us up and tell us they are coming to town; when other people ring up and tell us what they know is going on in regard to the farmers; when we recognise people in the town; when one's barber tells one a few weeks later that he had the place full of farmers on the Monday morning and the Saturday morning and they told him what they intended to do in Forrest Place—to pretend that the farmers need not take any of the blame is, of course, begging the question.

Mr McPharlin: No-one said the farmers were not there.

Mr DAVIES: No, but the Government has tried to white-wash the farmers and say that they stood there with their hands in their pockets doing nothing whatever. Of course, this is just not so.

I think that was the saddest day yet for political meetings in Australia and the farmers have a lot to answer for. If a similar situation occurs again—and I hope it will not—irrespective of who fomented the disruption, we can always remember that it started in Forrest Place on the 25th March when farmers did not know how to behave themselves.

Mr McPharlin: It was not only the farmers. Don't forget that!

Mr DAVIES: I have not said it was.

Mr Stephens: How orderly were the 6 000 at Subiaco? They were quite orderly.

Mr DAVIES: There were others in the crowd. Just like the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister always attracts a large crowd. The situation on this occasion in that respect was no different from the situation on other occasions. Indeed, I know of many people who went there just to hear the Prime Minister speak because they had not heard him before or

seen him in person. They had been looking forward to the experience, but they were quite disgusted with the way the crowd carried on.

It is quite true that not only farmers were present. There was one girl with violet-coloured sunglasses and a violet scarf. Printed across her chest were the words "I am a Liberal Lover". She was being lifted up and thrown into the air by several young chaps; and she was enjoying the mauling she was getting just as much as the men concerned were enjoying mauling her. If she were a farmer, she was the loveliest milkmaid I have ever seen, and I would have liked to maul her, too.

Mr O'Neil: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition thought it was disgusting.

Mr Jamieson: I did not say it was disgusting. I said that she was advertising her wares.

Mr DAVIES: The fact remains that I do not think it was very ladylike. However, there were others in the crowd whom I recognised. There were several supporters of our own party, but they were not continually shouting, "Out, out, out! Down, down, down! Get, get, get!" Our supporters were not chanting that type of thing.

Mr Stephens: Perhaps they were trying to get him to go to Subiaco.

Mr DAVIES: I could see the mood of the crowd. I just had to smile. I could not growl at them because I could not take on the 10 000 who were there. I told them the story of having lent a farmer some money for a parking meter. I told the story good-naturedly, but the crowd was completely out of humour. That story has been embellished since. Actually I was going to correct it, but I do not think I will now because the member for Vasse embellished it quite extensively when he told it in the House the other night. On my part it was a good-natured gesture. The fellows waved to me when I went back to the office, and I waved back to them, and they thought it was a great joke. That is all I said about the farmers.

I then tried to deal with some of the supporters of the Liberal Party. Indeed, I thought I was dealing with someone who is generally known in Liberal Party headquarters as the Godfather. I made a photostat copy of a letter signed by a fellow named New. It was on Midland Brick Company notepaper, and, roughly, it stated, "You have to give us money. It does not matter whether we approached you before." This is roughly the tenor of the letter. I will not quote it verbatim because you, Sir, might want to see my whole file and that could lead us to trouble.

Sir Charles Court: I will quote from the letter sent out by the chairman of the ALP fund raising committee, if you want me to.

Mr DAVIES: The Premier missed the fun we had last night about files, although he may have heard about it.

I will not bring the letter and quote it, but, once again, if anyone cares to come to my office he is welcome to have a look at the letter. The fact remains New said that it did not matter whether these people had been approached before, they were to slip in another couple of hundred dollars. He said, "We have to beat Don May. We have a candidate—a right wing candidate, and he is the chap we want in Parliament."

This was the tenor of my speech there. Members opposite apparently like right wing candidates. The more right they are the better they will like it. That is all I tried to say to the crowd. Some in the back of the crowd said they could hear me. I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to them as the Coorow choir around the truck. The people there could not hear a word, but the fact remains that this was the nature of the meeting. The farmers started the trouble and fomented it. They enjoyed it and accomplished what they wanted to accomplish, but it was the blackest political day in Australia as far as meetings go, and the farmers can take the blame from this day onwards.

The police made a report. I saw the file after much difficulty. The report was not on the file before; it has just been put on today. I will not comment on that report because of the conditions under which papers are shown to us, but what I want to ask is: What kind of an inquiry was it when the people making it did not go at least to some of the people on the platform? The member for Welshpool was there as were the Hon. Grace Vaughan and the member for Clontarf.

Mr Grayden: I think it was most orderly except for a handful around the platform.

Mr Jamieson: You were drunk if you say that.

Mr Grayden: I was not.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Point of Order

Mr GRAYDEN: There was an interjection which was offensive to me and I ask that it be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: I do not think the remark is offensive. The member for Welshpool said that if you felt that you would have been drunk.

Mr GRAYDEN: He said, "You must have been drunk at the time."

Mr J. T. Tonkin: We will accept the statement that you were not drunk.

Mr JAMIESON: I meant no offence. I am quite happy to withdraw it if it makes the Minister happy. We will keep everyone happy tonight for a while.

The SPEAKER: The member for Victoria Park.

Debate Resumed

Mr DAVIES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Time on, I am quite certain!

The fact remains that the police making the investigation did not go to anyone who was on the platform to ask him whether he had anything to say. Until the newspapers slipped into them they did not go out and look at the films which were readily available. The whole episode was on film and, in answer to questions, I was told there were 129 State policemen on duty.

Mr O'Connor: Do you doubt that?

Mr DAVIES: Yes, I do.

Mr O'Connor: You are calling the Commissioner of Police a liar then?

Mr DAVIES: The breakdown was 11 commissioned officers, 31 in plain-clothes, and 87 in uniform. It was March and the policemen were in summer dress with the white on their hats. Members may examine any of the photographs available and if they can count 87 uniformed policemen amongst that crowd—if they can count 50—

Mr O'Connor: In 10 000 you would be battling to count any.

Mr DAVIES: They might have been on duty at the Esplanade or directing traffic somewhere else, but they were not on duty in Forrest Place.

Mr O'Connor: You should know because you were a member of the Government at the time.

Mr DAVIES: How should I know? The Minister interjects and says that I should know. I was a member of the Government, but I did not have the Police portfolio. The Government did not direct policemen in Forrest Place.

Mr O'Connor: One of your colleagues should have.

Mr DAVIES: We would expect that the normal protection would be made available. There is one way to settle this.

Mr O'Connor: If you did not make sure there were policemen there, you were failing in your duty.

Mr DAVIES: Give us a list of the names of policemen on duty in Forrest Place. The Minister refused to do this when I asked him. If there is any argument at all let us publish the names and find out from the people concerned whether they were there. Until that is done, I say there were not 129 policemen on duty in Forrest Place.

Mr O'Connor: You are calling the Commissioner of Police and members of the force liars?

Mr DAVIES: They can get out of it as easily as anything—by giving us a list of the names of policemen on duty in Forrest Place.

Mr O'Connor: It was your Government at the time and you had a Minister there, and you should know.

Mr DAVIES: I could not care less—

Mr O'Connor: If you could not care less, why are you going on about it?

Mr DAVIES: The Minister said that there were 129 on duty.

Mr O'Connor: Correct.

Mr DAVIES: I said, "Give us a list of the names." I cannot find 129 of them. I was looking for policemen when I was sitting on the truck. I have since looked at the photographs to try to pick out 87 policemen with their white hats. I could not see them. I do not accept the evidence until a list of 129 names is published. I do not accept that there were 129 policemen on duty.

What does it mean? What is happening to the Police Force since this Government came into power? An inquiry was held. The people on the platform were not asked what they thought. The police did not look at the films until they were forced to do so.

Mr O'Connor: I saw the films.

Mr DAVIES: There was no evidence in the photographs that these men were on duty in Forrest Place itself. They might have been on duty in the city, but the Government will not publish their names. Its credibility must therefore be suspect. The Government deserves censure over the incident at Exmouth, but we have more important things to do. Certain things happened with the connivance of senior officers of the Government. That throws doubt on the credibility of the Police Force since the present Government has been in office. Thirdly, the Government is suspect because of its handling of the question of prostitution. It is still dithering about. All the Minister for Police can talk about is the highway patrol—the boys in blue. What is happening to the rest of the community while that is going on?

Mr O'Connor: They are getting better protection than they did previously.

Mr DAVIES: In last night's newspaper we see a headline "Widow 68 bound, gagged by thief", and on page 3 the headline "Struggle in car for rifle". These are two things which are happening to ordinary citizens in the community; to people who do not incite anybody.

Mr O'Connor: Did such things not happen when you were in Government?

Mr DAVIES: Only last Easter while the same police were chasing bikies, running around on their road patrol, and so forth, at three o'clock on Sunday afternoon somebody stole \$10 000-worth of jewellery from Caris Bros. in Victoria Park. This is the kind of law and order we have. At least our Government extended the Police Force and added to it.

The present Government worries about traffic offenders, but surely the rest of the community is entitled to some protection.

Mr O'Connor: They are getting no less.

Mr DAVIES: The police are only chasing around. I see that the Minister is now thinking about instituting instant fines for people who cross the road at an angle, or jaywalk.

Mr O'Connor: That action was drawn up by your Government.

Mr DAVIES: This is really good stuff. The Minister announces in the newspaper, "I am going to institute on-the-spot fines for people who step out of line." I say this brings the credibility of the Police Force into question. Why does the Government not take a straight line? Why does it not do something about prostitution instead of trying to hedge around the inquiry that has been asked for?

Mr O'Connor: What did you do about it while you were in Government?

Mr DAVIES: The Minister for Police, should see that something is done. It is not my responsibility.

There are a few other matters I want to deal with. One is that I hope the Premier's bias does not prevent the use by the Minister for Health of a perfectly good office suite in the new Curtin House. I am wondering who is running the Government. We handed over on the 8th April last, and I took the new Minister for Health (the Hon. Norman Baxter) down to my office and showed him the facilities which were available. I asked him which office he would be using. He said he did not know; he thought he would like to use the one at the Department for Community Welfare but the Minister for Police and Traffic would probably want to use that, so he was prepared to use whatever was available. That was at 2 o'clock or 2.30 p.m. on the 8th April. The next day there appeared in *The West Australian* a short article saying—

No Liberal-National Alliance Minister for Health would have his office in the new Trades Hall building, the Premier, Sir Charles Court, said yesterday.

He was quite right because there is no such thing as the National Alliance now. That statement was obviously published before the Minister for Health had made up his mind where he wanted to go, because at 2 o'clock the previous afternoon he did not know where he wanted to go.

If members of the staff have to traipse from one end of the town to the other to see the Minister, it will be a disgusting waste of money, particularly when it is said the Government needs additional accommodation. It has bought that ghastly blue building in the town and is also considering taking premises in Elder House or the AMP building. If the Government does not allow the Minister for

Health to use the very nice office in Curtin House, it deserves censure, and its words about saving money sound hollow.

I might also say I think the Government could have done a much better deal in renting out the medical health centres which are being built at Mandurah and Busselton. Earlier this session I asked whether agreement had been reached with the doctors who would be using them, and I was told—

Yes in principle by medical practitioners and dental practitioners. Final agreements are expected to be signed within the next few weeks. Draft copies of the final agreement which has been accepted by the General Council of the AMA (WA Division) are tabled herewith.

In reply to a subsequent question I asked in regard to the rental of the rooms I was told doctors would be able to rent consulting rooms for \$219 a quarter, which works out at about \$17 a week. In addition, doctors have access to the rest of the area shaded green on the plan which was tabled, which includes a secretary's office, amenities, records office, relatives' waiting room, emergency treatment room, trolley bay, toilets, etc. The department is also responsible for insurance, rates, refuse disposal charges, maintenance of buildings and grounds—I should withdraw that one—cleaning, and services such as water, heating, cooling, and internal communications. All that for \$17 a week!

One would be on a very good wicket if one could get a consulting room with all those facilities provided for \$17 a week. The rental is based on the consumer price index housing group figure for Western Australia, which was 147.8 at the time of the agreement. It will apply for a period of five years, at the end of which time it will be reviewed, not on the basis of the increase in doctors' fees but on the increase in the consumer price index housing group figure. I think the doctors have a bonanza there. I congratulate the AMA; it has made a very good deal. I would have thought the Government would charge more than \$17 a week for a consulting room with all those additional facilities. I hope, however, that the centres work; and I can imagine some doctors will be very happy indeed with those rates. I know I would be happy with them if I were a professional man.

I now want to say a few words about medical students and the increase in numbers. I agreed with much of what was said by the member for Subiaco earlier this session but I was disappointed that he seemed to give all the credit to the present Government—particularly to the Premier—for increasing the number of doctors. We had been dealing with the question for months, and it was only because of the action of the then Premier (Mr Tonkin) and the approaches he made to

the present Prime Minister that we were able to increase the numbers almost immediately by 10, followed later by an additional 10, making 20 in all. We were not sitting around hoping the problem would not arise. We knew it existed and we did something about it.

When I was the Minister for Health, I asked the university and the department to make recommendations. These people are rather difficult to deal with. I agree with the member for Subiaco that amongst the medical profession there are a number of empire builders. The fact remains that we made a considerable amount of progress. The Acting Dean of the Medical Faculty (Professor McCall) produced a report dated the 27th March, three days before the election, saying good use could be made of the St. John of God Hospital. I had been following the matter up but a considerable number of problems existed in regard to using it as a teaching hospital.

We would not have been deterred because we wanted to ensure, firstly, that the present teaching resources were being used to the absolute maximum, and, secondly, that St. John's wanted to become part of the scheme; and if so we had to see what kind of deal could be worked out. Certain suggestions had been made. As I said, the report of the Acting Dean of the Medical Faculty was dated the 27th March, and subsequent to that a meeting was arranged at the St. John of God Hospital. I understand it was arranged at the convenience of the Minister for Health, but on the morning of the meeting advice was received that the Minister had a luncheon engagement which he was unable to break, and he sent along in his place the member for Subiaco and the Premier. I was very pleased to see that the Minister for Health was so important that he had to send along two members of Parliament—one the Premier himself—to assist in the deliberations.

Out of the meeting came general agreement that the hospital could be used for teaching purposes. It does not mean the hospital will be thrown open to anybody and everybody. Some beds will be made available for teaching purposes, which will mean some cost to the Government. Apart from that, certain administrative and legislative requirements need to be attended to. I would have thought from the way the member for Subiaco spoke the other night that these matters had been finalised and it was only necessary now for the Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council to reach a decision. The member for Subiaco hinted that the council would reach an adverse decision. I was not of that mind. I thought the council would probably agree to the arrangements, and indeed it has since agreed to them.

I am wondering whether the council fully considered the implications of the available teaching resources, and whether

it had considered the report which the Dean of the Medical Faculty (Professor Lennon) made while on sabbatical leave. I do not know what is in the report but it deals with beds and resources. I also wonder whether the council considered the report of the State Health Council—a very large report which was presented to me about a week before the election. It was the result of almost 18 months' study by a special committee which dealt with the hospital requirements in Western Australia for the next 10 years.

Sometimes I feel that all of these matters were not taken into consideration. The Premier made a statement that use would be made of St John's for teaching purposes. I am not for or against the use of St John's, but I am concerned with the cost to the State which will be incurred, and the fact that we do not know where the money is coming from. I was told—and it was confirmed in a small article I saw in *The Sunday Times* last week—that the Government had decided that this hospital should be used for teaching. The Government has decided this, and not the university. I wonder what the university would say if the Government marched down there and said, "We are going to use St. John's" because if the university said, "You are not" that would be the beginning and the end of it.

In my question I asked also when the St. John of God Hospital in Subiaco would be first used as a teaching hospital, how many students would be accommodated, how many teaching beds would be provided, and what additional clinical staff would need to be appointed. However, the last part of my question was changed to read, "clerical staff" instead of "clinical staff", probably as a result of my bad handwriting. But what I put in writing did not matter much because the answer dealt with those four questions in a group. The Minister said it is anticipated that teaching will be introduced at the hospital in 1975, and the details of the arrangements to be made have not been finalised.

I was a little shocked to hear that because I thought everything was under control and the whole matter was already sewn up. However, it seems that the Government is not even sure that the hospital will be used in 1975; it merely said, "It is anticipated that teaching will be introduced at the hospital in 1975 and the details of the arrangements to be made have not been finalised."

I also asked—

- (3) What is the cost to the Government by way of—
 - (a) capital costs;
 - (b) subsidy per bed;
 - (c) other?

I asked what it would cost the Government because I like to see that we receive value for our money; I hate to see money

poured into something without receiving any value for it. However, I was staggered—had I not been sitting down I am sure I would have fallen down—to find that the likely costs to the Government are being investigated. We have no evidence to say that Professor Lennon's report has been received and used, or that the report of the State Health Council has been considered. We had a statement saying that the St John of God Hospital, Subiaco, will be used; and we already knew that because in the policy speech of the Liberal Party it was stated that private hospitals would be used for teaching purposes. However, the really staggering thing is that we do not know how much this will cost. The Minister said, "The likely costs to the Government are being investigated."

Mr Speaker, would you not have thought that the first thing the Government would do, having said there is a possibility that St. John's will be used, would be to obtain a costing of the likely expenditure? That part of the Premier's election policy speech is exactly the same as his education policies; that is, the Government made the statements and now it is going to see how these things will be done and how much they will cost. This is not the kind of Government we can put up with; we want an orderly Government; we want to know where we are going, what will be the cost, what value we will receive, and where the money will come from. We also want to know whether every other alternative has been fully investigated.

I asked a further question. I point out that the questions I asked were ones which came off the top of my head as I wrote them down at about four minutes to five last night, just before the closing time for questions on notice. I did not have to think about these questions because to me they were so obvious. The further question I asked was—

- (4) Will the Government have any say in the management of the hospital and, if so, in what way?

I asked that question because I knew that aspect could be arranged; but I was told that the relationship between the hospital and the Government has not yet been determined. In other words, the whole thing is a goer, but we do not know when it will start, how much it will cost, or under what conditions it will operate. What kind of humbug is the Government handing out! It is handing out this humbug just so it can say it is complying with its election policy.

Mr O'Connor: Don't get too worked up; you might tell us what censure motion will come next.

Mr DAVIES: Well, do not go away.

Mr O'Connor: Okay.

Mr DAVIES: I also asked whether the proposal had the endorsement of the Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council, and the answer was, "Yes."

I have a lot in common with the member for Subiaco in regard to the Teaching Hospitals Advisory Council; it has been the greatest disappointment of all the legislation I brought forward when I was the Minister for Health. It has not done the job I intended it to do. I believe it has fallen down because the members of the council are all too concerned with their own hospitals rather than with trying to obtain a wider and broader picture. I am not saying that the council did not come up with some good recommendations or that it was not helpful on a number of occasions; but I would have liked it to appoint a research officer of its own, and I would have liked it to start investigations instead of waiting for matters to be referred to it. I would have liked to see it adopting a much more vigorous approach than it has.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr DAVIES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Unless the council is revitalised and its present charter withdrawn and rewritten, we might as well abolish the council altogether. We have a great deal of work to do in respect of hospitals in this State. Of course, we have to wait for a while to see what the Commonwealth does.

My final point—for the benefit of the Minister for Transport, before I get to the matter of real import—is that I said earlier I was sorry to see that no mention was made in the Governor's Speech about amending the Town Planning Act so far as the appeals system is concerned. As it stands the appeal system is unfair to many people. I believe it is outdated; and I feel it needs to be revamped and taken away from the Minister's immediate jurisdiction.

Mr Rushton: Why didn't you do it? You had the opportunity.

Mr DAVIES: My remarks are not intended as a reflection on the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning; but I wondered when he would wake up. If the Minister cared to look around his office he would find some draft legislation prepared for this purpose. I am telling him what is in his own office, and he might like to act upon it. Perhaps it has not fallen out of the cupboard yet.

The fact is that in our policy speech we said we would reorganise the appeal system. Briefly, the present position is that appeals may be made to a court, to a committee, or to the Minister. Most people appeal to the Minister; that is, they apply first to the Town Planning Board, and if their application is rejected in most cases the appeal comes to the Minister. Very frequently the people who advise the

Town Planning Board also advise the Minister, and the Minister is required to wade through reams of files and papers before coming to a decision. I sympathise with any Minister who is doing his job properly in this regard because it means long hours of tedious work to ensure that no matter is overlooked when dealing with an appeal.

I believe we need a system whereby an independent person or a panel could have a look at appeals as they come forward and invite the appellants before him or them. The appellant, in an informal discussion should be able to put his thoughts before an independent reviewer. I am sorry to say that when I was the Minister I dismissed some appeals, and later those concerned have said to me that I had dismissed an appeal without taking into consideration certain factors which they then itemised. I told those people that that was new evidence which I was not aware of at the time, and if it needed to be taken into consideration, then the whole process had to be gone through again.

At present the system is one of appealing from Caesar to Caesar, and that is unfair. It is not just to the appellants or to the Minister; nor is it just to the staff, who, in many cases, must review their own decisions. I believe we can quickly and easily reform the present system to provide for a more democratic approach.

I attended a seminar on the Johnston report on retail shopping at the university today, and time and time again speakers brought up the fact that they are dissatisfied with the appeal system. I am unhappy to say that that feeling exists outside. The Government must take urgent action to bring the appeal system up to date. I am aware that the Act was amended by the Liberal-Country Party Government in 1970 to provide for an appeals committee, but that has not been really successful and a more democratic and fairer means of appeal under which all parties may be satisfied, and which places less responsibility upon the Minister—because he has insufficient time to handle this properly—should now be introduced.

Mr Rushton: Now you are endorsing our policy; that is good.

Mr DAVIES: If I am endorsing the policy of the Liberal Party, I am also stating our own policy and saying that I regret very much indeed the fact that no mention was made in the Governor's Speech that this matter will be dealt with. A great number of talks in relation to this matter were held in the Town Planning Department. Draft legislation—

Mr Rushton: They have been trying to introduce this for something like nine years. You were a part of this.

Mr DAVIES: —was prepared; and I would have thought that as it is so important to so many people—and as it is

becoming increasingly important every day—at least legislation for a better appeal system would have rated a mention in the Governor's Speech. The Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning is again trying to interject. He seems to be trying to have a shot at me. He is so stupid that he cannot see I am only trying to tell him what my feelings are on this matter. We will wait with interest to see his legislation.

MR SODEMAN (Pilbara) [6.12 p.m.]: Mr Speaker: I commence my first speech in this House by congratulating those who, like myself, are here for the first time. My congratulations are also extended to the member for Kalamunda on his appointment as Chairman of Committees, and to you, Sir, on being unanimously elected to the high and responsible office of Speaker. I convey my sincere appreciation to the staff of Parliament House for the very helpful manner in which they have assisted me as a new member.

Since the 3rd June, 1966, when the first shipment of Pilbara iron ore left Port Hedland for Japan, a tremendous amount of progress has been made in the region. It is important that, before I start talking about the current and future needs of the people of the Pilbara, I mention briefly what has taken place since the date of that first shipment of iron ore.

The Pilbara electorate is the third largest electorate in Western Australia, and it covers an area of 87 750 square miles. In fact, in size it is only 134 square miles smaller than the State of Victoria. It has a population of approximately 36 000 and produces 6 per cent of the gross national overseas export income, and 34 per cent of our State export income.

During the last eight years we have seen the development of three additional major iron ore mines, salt production by solar evaporation of sea water at Port Hedland and Dampier, and the construction of new and additional port facilities. We have also witnessed the discovery of offshore natural gas and oil in what seems certain to be export quantities.

Subsequent to the industrial development that has taken place over the past eight years, has been the growth of nine new towns. This is a Pilbara town growth rate of slightly over one new town per year, which does not include Goldsworthy as it was established and the mine was operational prior to June, 1966.

With the resulting publicity the Pilbara received because of the mineral boom, there was a marked increase in tourism. This growth has been further enhanced by the sealing of the North-West Coastal Highway from Carnarvon to Roebourne.

Basic services have been upgraded and expanded, and although there is still a lot to be done in certain fields, an enormous amount of progress has been made

in a relatively short time. Air-conditioned buses travel regularly from Perth to the Pilbara, and in place of the DC3 we now have a daily jet service to all of the major airports, with feeder services to other towns.

There are an additional 10 new primary schools, two district high schools, and two new secondary high schools of a standard equal to the best in the metropolitan area. Hostel facilities have also been provided at Port Hedland. Although we have a gross shortage of doctors and a need for increased medical facilities and services, most towns are equipped with medical facilities of some sort, and those that are not are serviced by an extremely efficient Royal Flying Doctor Service, which is based at Port Hedland. The station owners rely heavily on this service.

In addition to that which I have already mentioned, tremendous progress has been made with the telephone service to the area, with all coastal towns other than Onslow being on subscriber trunk dialling; and in October of last year ABC television was introduced into the Pilbara.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr SODEMAN: There are many other aspects of progress that I have not mentioned, but my purpose in starting my speech in this manner was not to list them all, but to indicate generally the achievement factor so far.

My reason for doing this is to dispel the feeling that some people in the Pilbara seem to have, that they are neglected and that nothing is being done for the area. Having lived in the Pilbara for six years prior to being elected to Parliament, I feel I have a practical understanding of the needs of the people whom I now represent, and I know I would be doing them and myself an injustice if I did not comment on several important aspects of community development.

There is a growing tendency these days for people to complain, and to highlight what may appear to them to be problem areas, while making very little mention of those things that are located on the credit side of our community ledger. This attitude, in itself, can prove to be the greatest single problem with which any community can be beset.

The Pilbara is still a potentially vibrant area, and it is essential that the people who live there would be people who are prepared to be positive thinkers and objective in their community involvement. Spectators have plenty of time to sit back and criticise, whereas the players do not—they are too busy playing the game. In other words, if people were to hop in and do a little more themselves, instead of waiting for it to be done by others, there would be less room for complaint, because there would be fewer problems, and a much

healthier community attitude would prevail. A sense of participation and subsequent belonging is a must.

I feel rather privileged at having had the opportunity to live in an area of development such as the Pilbara. One becomes aware that bricks and mortar make a town, but it is the people who are responsible for turning that town into a wholesome community.

The influx and growth of religious groups, service clubs, and sporting and charitable organisations is an indication that a community is developing. It is the interaction of these groups of people, and of individuals within the groups, that ultimately produces a stable and happy community atmosphere.

It is worth while noting that the sphere of involvement just mentioned is composed of individuals who receive no monetary return for their efforts. It is these sorts of people who have contributed tremendously to the community development of the Pilbara. It is their continued efforts and enthusiasm that we, as a Government, have a responsibility to foster.

The mining companies are to be commended for the pride they are taking in their towns. In most instances, no expense has been spared in creating a clean and pleasant living environment.

The recreation facilities in these towns are assisted or supplied by the companies, and in most instances they are of an extremely high standard.

Unfortunately, the mining companies still receive more than their fair share of criticism for their efforts, most of which is unfounded when the standard of accommodation and available facilities are taken into proper account.

The main areas of frustration for the residents, especially those living in the inland towns, are roads, cost of living, minimal degree of choice, and what is sometimes referred to as the big-brother attitude of the companies.

As I will be dealing with the first three points later in my speech, I would at this juncture like to comment on the last point mentioned.

What appears to be the big-brother company attitude is an area of great concern, not only to the residents but to the companies also. Their expertise is naturally heavily biased towards the practical side of their operations; that is, towards the efficient running of a mine. They are not experts when it comes to looking after, and being responsible for, the domestic well-being of people.

However, company management is the first to acknowledge its shortcomings in this regard, and it is endeavouring to find acceptable solutions to what has become a very complex problem.

It is promising to see that the Goldsworthy Mining Company has embarked on a house-purchase scheme for its employees.

Some 20 houses have already been built in South Hedland, and another 10 to 25 houses are scheduled for completion under the same scheme within the next 12 months.

This scheme could well be a major part of the answer to this particular problem, as it will take the onus off the company and place the responsibility of domestic welfare on the individual, where it rightfully belongs—individual responsibility will be restored.

Mr Speaker, having covered very broadly the physical aspects of the Pilbara progress during the last eight years, and some of the features of community development, I now move on to specific areas of need.

The order in which I speak on each of these areas, is not necessarily the order of priority given to them by the people. The priority of need will naturally vary from person to person and be in accord with their own individual circumstances.

The first item that I want to mention is that of Pilbara presentation, or public relations in the Pilbara. It is essential that the area and its development be accurately described. There is a very real need for things to be portrayed in their proper perspective.

The previous Member for Pilbara, a person very well known to all but the new members in this House, stated just recently that the north-west was a hostile country; it was a hot arid desert and people had to realise this. He also said the future held in store a false life for perhaps the next 30 years.

With those sorts of comments portraying the false impression of the area that they do, is it any wonder that companies find it hard to attract people into the area to work for them, despite an apparent easing of the labour market throughout Australian capital cities?

Mining companies are finding skilled workers are reluctant to take jobs in remote areas. The four iron ore companies in the Pilbara are looking for 300 to 400 men, which represents 5 to 6½ per cent of the current work force of 6 000 men.

This is the situation, regardless of the fact that many of the jobs in the mining towns will pay \$220 for a 60-hour week, with fringe benefits such as heavily subsidised board for single men, low rents for comfortable houses for married couples, and certain taxation concessions.

It has been reported that Cliffs Robe River eased its shortage of skilled labour by flying more than 50 men from Britain. Mt. Newman Mining Ltd., which is expanding its operation, invited Sydney tradesmen and their families to film evenings in order to indicate the attractions of its mining towns.

Following these comments, it will be appreciated how development can be seriously impaired if proper perspective is not maintained.

Rather than being a hot arid desert, the north-west is a region that has a climate more correctly described as being near perfect for two-thirds of the year, and barely tolerable for the other one-third of the year. The good and the bad balanced out produces the result that a great number of people who go into the area on a temporary basis decide to stay on and make it their permanent home.

Although the north-west does not characterise the south-west, with its lush pastures and mammoth karri and jarrah forests, nevertheless there is still a certain awe-inspiring beauty in its rolling plains of spinifex, numerous hills, mountains, gorges, and river crossings. The north-west river gum probably has more individual appeal than any other tree in the State, and this, against a backdrop of stratified rock, is nothing short of a painter's dream.

Another important side of Pilbara public relations is that of defining and identifying what I would prefer to call natural stages of development, as against the damaging mistake of incorrectly categorising all things as problems.

Mr Speaker, I am not for one moment suggesting that the Pilbara is completely without problems, but what I am saying is that there are very few problem headings or categories that do not already exist in the metropolitan area, and in some instances exist to a greater extent within the city limits.

I personally feel that this area of need, to accurately project the concise nature of the Pilbara, is of the utmost importance, not only to those already living there, but also to those whom we are endeavouring to attract into the area to become a permanent part of a much needed work force.

The second item to which I wish to refer is that of industrial stability. The comment in the 1974 January-March edition of the *IPA Review*, which states that, in 1971, only two countries in the world exceeded Australia in the number of man-hours lost in strikes, and that the productivity of Australia is embarrassingly low, indicates clearly the need for industrial stability.

The Pilbara is by no means isolated from this problem. By virtue of the fact that it relies heavily on mining for its current level of activity, it is more susceptible to strike action and the inevitable repercussions than most other areas in the State.

I want to say at this stage that I have nothing whatsoever against responsible unionism, conducted in a democratic manner. I readily acknowledge the valued contribution that this type of union activity has made to our social structure.

What I am strongly against is the irresponsible activity that takes place behind the facade of responsible concern for one's fellow worker. It is this type of activity that is taking place within some unions today. The effects on society are going to be quite tragic, if responsible citizens sit back and allow the situation to continue in perpetuity.

The benefits that have been so far gained by the enactment of objective unionism will be lost, and we will be back where we started with the end result being a shattered democracy.

I have a recent example of this type of situation to illustrate my point. Some weeks ago I received a letter from a union organiser in my electorate and I quote the following paragraph from that letter—

Following the announced increases in freight rates, both road and shipping, there has been a real cry for the consumer action movement to become active, but this time it should be not the ineffective group of women but instead the unionists. There is no doubt in my mind that the unionists will resort to flexing of industrial muscles to restrain prices in the Hedland area.

This comment was sparked by an announcement that owing to an increase of \$30 per ton in the freight rate the price of ice creams was going to increase from 10c to 11c.

The union organiser calculated that the weight of an ice cream was 2 oz and that there were 17 920 ice creams per ton; therefore, at a 1c increase per ice cream, the retailer would gross \$179.20 extra per ton.

Because the freight rate had only increased by \$30 per ton and owing to the fact that ice creams only sold for 6c in Perth, he felt that the people were being exploited.

However, what he did not know was that the price of ice creams had also gone up in Perth at the same time as they had gone up in Hedland, and were selling for 8c.

Coupled with this was the fact that although there had been recent increases in wages, pay-roll tax, bank charges and interest rates, etc., no mention had been made as to what extent the retailer had absorbed previous increases in his business expenses, nor as to whether he would be absorbing further increases to offset the assessed excess return created by this particular price increase.

I checked the price in other towns in the Pilbara and the price, in actual fact, increased by more than 1c, as it eventually did in Port Hedland also.

The general attitude of the storekeepers was that they would prefer not to sell ice cream at all, when the effects of increasing business expenses were taken properly into account.

It may not have been the intention to act irresponsibly on this occasion, but the inference was certainly there.

I am extremely concerned about the current price spiral in the Pilbara, but irresponsible action can only add to the problem and not relieve it.

It is my intention to bring up the cost of living as a separate item later in my speech. Therefore I will not dwell on it at this point.

If one union group is irresponsible in its claims and demands on industry, and is successful, then others, even though they exude a greater degree of responsibility than their trend-setting counterparts, are forced into a position of taking undesirable action themselves in order to keep pace.

In 1973 the man-hours lost by one organisation in the Pilbara reached an all-time high. The percentage of time lost was 6½ per cent of the total time available for work. If this figure was reduced, the effect on the employees take-home pay would be quite considerable.

Mr Speaker, I must say that the comments made to me during the course of my campaign in the Pilbara, by the majority of union representatives that I had occasion to speak with, were heartening indeed. A positive and realistic approach is being taken by some people, and I only hope that their efforts will not be fragmented by their head office officials.

It is the inherent right of every individual to maintain his freedom of choice and the right to work, and if this right is to be protected an immediate change in our present industrial relations system is needed.

I often wonder what the station owner and worker thinks and feels, when he rises at sun-up and finishes his day when the sun sets, and faces all the risks associated with geographic location and climate, for no guaranteed return. Even more so, when at the end of a hard year's work, he sometimes finds that he has worked the total year for no return for effort at all. I guess on the very odd occasion he wishes he had the strike facility to fall back on to relieve his situation.

However, the assumed wishful thinking aside, he has not, nor have a lot of other people who decide to have a go on their own without the backing of the masses. More often than not it is these people who are adversely affected by strike action.

A union has the right to legal strike action, but somewhere along the line a sense of responsibility must be developed towards other people.

Unions must abide by the law that binds and protects every individual in our society, and until such time as this situation is enforced, there will be innocent victims of irresponsible strike action not only in the Pilbara, but all over Australia.

Mr Speaker, I genuinely feel that if I did not make mention of the Federal Government and the part that it has played in the Pilbara since coming to office, first in December, 1972, and then again in May, 1974, I would be accused by virtually every elector, and rightly so, for dereliction of duty.

There is an apparent lack of Federal realism in every country area of this State. To say that the present Federal policies are having an adverse effect on the Pilbara is to state only the obvious—the obvious, that is, to some people.

I was astonished to hear the comments made by members of the Opposition, against the Premier (Sir Charles Court) for laying the blame for our current economic circumstances at the feet of the Federal Government.

If my memory serves me correctly, the Leader of the Opposition was himself critical of the Federal Government, prior to the last State election and when he was the then Premier of our State.

Even the previous Labor member for Pilbara was outspokenly critical of the Federal Labor Government's policies. He clearly conveyed his feelings in the media and suggested that this was one of the reasons for his defeat at the polls.

I am aware that it is easy to be critical, but if we do not clearly identify our tangible problem areas, we will be forever chasing a red herring.

To give substance to my criticism, it is my intention to indicate examples. The one singular action that has put a damper on development in the Pilbara was the 33½ per cent variable deposit requirement on overseas funds coming into Australia, for investment in Australian development projects.

Although the figure has been increased once and twice reduced—it now stands at 5 per cent—the result of its implementation has been virtual stagnation in basic development.

The people in the Pilbara have been apprehensively waiting to see what the future held for the area. Although I applaud the reduction, I cannot help feeling that it will be some time before the wound is healed and investors regain their confidence.

After all, for what was set up to protect Australia from industrial and economic plunder to be discarded with a stroke of a pen would not readily convince any sound thinking investor that a Government was stable in action and honest in intent.

However, it is hoped that this is the case, and that the Pilbara and other affected areas can look forward to the development that is required to service their needs for basic facilities and services.

The proposed price increases in postal charges, telephone calls, and the taking away of the fuel subsidy, hit right at the heart of individual and business expense.

Because of the Pilbara's location and subsequent distance from the administrative centre, the area of cost increases is on basic daily essentials, and as the degree of utilisation of all three items is greater, the people in remote areas are to be hit the hardest.

We also pay to the Federal Government sales tax on freight; and although most people do not realise it this erroneous situation is prohibitive to warehousing. In other words, the people in the north are deprived of what is taken for granted in the metropolitan area as being an essential basic service to industry.

Flexibility in the system is a must—it has been requested and refused. Talking about flexibility, Mr Speaker, another item to which this same comment applies is the zone allowance. This has not been adjusted since 1959, but was adjusted three times prior to 1959.

There is an argument that it is unconstitutional, but to that argument I offer the counter argument that if it was initiated when in fact it was unconstitutional it must have been considered that there was a very real need for special assistance. Theoretically, if there has been no change in the criteria on which the initial decision was based, then surely the amount allowable as a taxation deduction should be increased to keep pace with inflation, if for no other reason.

I feel this is a good case for at least reassessing the zone allowance, but here again, as with the sales tax on freight, requests along these lines have been rebuffed by the Federal Government.

The 1974 road allocation funds are another example of the very unrealistic attitude being exhibited towards country areas. Roads are the lifeline of the Pilbara, and good roads within the region will contribute in a very real way to population stability and a lowering of costs.

However, in 1974, it appears that we are to receive \$49 million as compared with \$49.2 million received in 1973. Allowing for inflation, this figure should be \$64 million.

It is easy to see that not only are we receiving less but we are to get far less production per dollar than we did last year; therefore, it seems there will be an inevitable slowing down in our State and consequently our Pilbara road development programme.

This is extremely hard to understand when one takes into account the massive increase in taxation now being received by the Federal Government due to inflation. It goes without saying that the people in the country areas are in for a torrid time, until we have a Liberal Government in power in Canberra.

Whether Mr Whitlam likes to acknowledge the fact or not, if it were not for the export contribution coming from country areas, Australia's balance of trade position would be unfavourable, to say the least.

Mr Speaker, my next point under the heading of "specific areas of need" is the cost of living. With our current rate of hyper-inflation running at something like 20 per cent, the need to reduce it to an acceptable level is the one thing, without doubt, that is uppermost in the minds of every responsible, thinking individual in Australia today.

I was in complete agreement with the member for Karrinyup, when he stated that inflation does not come out of the sky. Its causes are local, and major contributing factors are not all that hard to identify.

Personal greed and selfishness are the greatest hurdles we have to overcome, and unless this is realised very quickly by all, we are in for extremely bad times.

I fully appreciate that inflation is higher in other parts of the world, and that in some countries is has reached alarming heights. However, it is indeed negative and folly for a Government, or anyone else for that matter, to seek solace from the degree of hardship being experienced by others. This attitude would eventually lead to a complete collapse of our economic system as we know it today.

I am not for one moment suggesting that outside influences have no effect on Australia's economic stability; they do, but it is to what extent that I am prepared to debate.

No one group of people, State or Federal Government, entirely on its own, can hope to solve our inflationary problem; it is the responsibility of every individual in Australia.

The individual might well disagree and ask how he can help overcome such a mammoth problem when he feels it is the responsibility of Government.

The answer, I feel, is in the example that was given to us by the British, in the events which led up to their last general election. The Heath Government had placed the lid on the pressure cooker but the people kept pouring in the pressure until the lid blew off.

The Wilson Government took over, relieved the inflow of public pressure by granting the wage increases that had been demanded, and the country took one more step towards bankruptcy.

Within a week of the wage increases being granted, up went the price of fuel and over 500 household commodities, including the price of food.

This is a clear indication that the solution does not lie in continual wage increases in order to catch up. It is everybody's responsibility to become aware of what is happening in Australia, and to appreciate that the days of more real money for less work have gone.

I venture to say that if we all put in a little extra effort, and increased our basic working week slightly, instead of continually pressing for it to be decreased, it would not be long before Australia experienced the healthiest economy in the world.

We have everything going for us, but because of complacency and greed, it appears we are prepared to throw away our inherent national advantages.

Inflation is having a detrimental effect on development in the Pilbara, more so than in the metropolitan area because of the already existing cost disparity.

Recent figures on company housing in the area indicate that housing costs are virtually double. A cost per square of \$2 335 is being experienced. This is significantly higher than the \$1 000 to \$1 200 per square that it costs in the metropolitan area for a home of similar standard. If we add the expense of air-conditioning and furniture, the cost is considerably higher again.

Three-bedroom brick veneer homes in the Pilbara are costing the mining companies between \$32 300 and \$42 500, depending on actual size and location.

The seemingly endless cost spiral is having a disastrous effect on the profitability of the mining companies. In 1972, Hamersley Iron had a net profit, per tonne of iron ore shipped, of \$1.12. After converting half-yearly figures to an annual rate, it appears that in 1974 its net return per tonne will be 27c.

Regardless of the comments that one hears regarding the supposed excess profits made by multi-national companies, if this trend keeps up for very much longer, we will not have any—in the Pilbara least-ways.

It is of course pointless to define the problems that the private home builder finds confronting him in the Pilbara. They are almost insurmountable and consequently we have a very low percentage of privately-owned homes in the area.

This situation, which also adversely affects all employee home purchase schemes, must change if we ever hope to maintain a stable population in the area.

The Premier is to be congratulated for initiating an inquiry into all forms of rates and taxes as they relate to land valuation. It is hoped, for the benefit of areas such as the Pilbara, that the existing gap will be closed, and that a uniform scale of charges for water, sewerage, and drainage will be introduced throughout the State.

Material shortages is another contributing factor. The builder is forced to allow for delays in his costing structure, and the resulting loss of project continuity pushes contract prices higher and higher. An expeditor has been appointed to travel interstate to help alleviate this problem.

Freight, of course, is another major area of concern, and the recent 30 per cent increase in State Shipping Service charges was most unwelcome.

I did some checking in order to ascertain the reason for such a high increase and was informed of the following—

- (a) The State Shipping Service loss is expected to be at least \$5.8 million in the 1974-75 year. An increase of \$1.4 million on the 1973-74 year loss.
- (b) The 30 per cent increase will only yield in the order of \$1.5 million in a full year, and this barely offsets the May wage increases of \$1.25 million. There have been further wage increases since.
- (c) An able seaman is paid \$9 100 per year plus for a 40-hour week, on a basis of 30 weeks on and 22 weeks off. This is phasing to 26 weeks on and 26 weeks off.

I might point out, Mr Speaker, that this remuneration is not all that much less than the base salary currently being received by Western Australian members of Parliament.

This is a most unsatisfactory situation, and it appears that the alternative to increases in freight charges is to do away with the service—bearing in mind, of course, that the recent increase by no means covers this year's expected loss.

It is to be hoped that some sanity will find its way into our present state of affairs and relieve the cost burden being borne by northern consumers.

Mr Speaker, my next item is that of basic facilities. As this covers such a broad range, it is my intention to mention briefly major aspects only. In both the areas of education and medical services in the Pilbara we are barely keeping pace with demand.

Buildings are generally bursting at the seams and there is an overall shortage of both teachers and doctors. Specialist services in both fields are grossly inadequate, and it is imperative that something be done to attract more doctors into the area.

It has been suggested to the Minister for Health that interns, after the completion of their supervised period in an approved

hospital, come into the Pilbara for a specific period of time in order to lighten the load now carried by a few dedicated doctors who are working all hours to service the needs of the community.

There are other suggestions also for attracting fully qualified practitioners and specialists, and these are currently being discussed with the Minister.

The State Government is to be congratulated for its assistance to hostels. The South Hedland Senior High School Hostel has received a 300 per cent increase in its *per capita* subsidy. This, together with a lump sum payment of \$3 000 towards its present overdraft, has assisted the local hostel committee tremendously.

However, because of extremely high operating costs and a lower than expected student intake, the committee still has financial problems. The State Government has undertaken the task of finding a solution.

Technical education facilities need to be expanded in order to cater for apprentices and include all phases of adult education. It is pleasing to see that the policy of this Government caters for this basic requirement.

Adequate recreational and cultural facilities are of the utmost importance to the Pilbara. When it is considered that the majority of the population in the area comes from established towns and cities which are well serviced with sporting and cultural amenities, it is easy to comprehend the problems that parents have with their children when they shift to a developing region such as the Pilbara.

As mentioned previously, most company towns are well equipped in this regard and it is towns like Onslow, Roebourne, Wittenoom, Marble Bar, Nullagine, and South Hedland that have so far missed out badly.

The facilities in these towns are the province of local government, and it is our responsibility to assist the shire councils in whatever way possible. They have been hit with an enormous financial burden because of the development that has so rapidly taken place, and can ill afford any cut-back in allocations received from State or Federal Governments.

As I mentioned previously, Mr Speaker, there are many requirements under this heading, but time will not permit me to cover them all.

I would like to acknowledge the speed with which the Minister for Justice confirmed the appointment of a resident magistrate for the town of Port Hedland. With the growing number of cases being heard in the town this appointment will take some of the pressure off a much overworked group of JPs.

The recent survey conducted by the Under-Secretary for Law and the President of the W.A. Law Society into the need for a resident solicitor looks as though it may bear fruit. If this proves correct, and a legal advisory service is also established in the Pilbara, people will be able to receive preliminary legal advice on any matter for a fee of \$2.

The final specific area of need that I want to present is the need for improved communication and administration at Government department level. Lack of good communication and efficient administration is one of the main contributing factors to the feeling of isolation that a great number of people experience in the north.

The State Government's policy to establish regional Government centres is a positive step in the right direction, and cannot be implemented quickly enough as far as the Pilbara is concerned.

As an interim step towards improving communications to the area, I have approached the North-West Department, requesting that consideration be given to the collating of all information pertaining to State and Federal Government assistance available to individuals and organisations in the Pilbara.

It is envisaged that the information would cover such things as subsidies, education allowances, special travel allowances, welfare assistance, Government grants, and so on, and be in printed form for distribution purposes. The reaction from the Director of the North-West Department was favourable, and it appears that the idea could well be implemented once the coverage has been defined.

Administrative flexibility is a daily requirement for departmental officers working in the Pilbara, especially in the field of State housing. State housing policy, in a high cost area such as the Pilbara, must take into account the young married couple who require housing but do not qualify because they do not have children.

Private rental houses are virtually an impossible proposition for young couples who are not employed by mining companies, and who have to find their own accommodation. Short of living in a caravan they have no housing alternative left open to them other than State Housing Commission homes.

THE SPEAKER: The member has five minutes.

MR SODEMAN: Mr Speaker, in concluding I want to say that the Pilbara is desperately in need of an improved national economic climate. It is an area with tremendous potential and needs development on a steady predictable basis.

Development means people, and as the population increases so does the viability of establishing amenities and basic facilities. The benefits of increased population flow on automatically into the community by way of a greater degree of in-built versatility. Development also means job diversification and stability for supporting industries.

Because of its potential, the Pilbara also requires positive full-time representation, and it is my intention to ensure, to the best of my ability, that these requirements are fulfilled during my term as the member for Pilbara in this Parliament. I support the Address-in-Reply.

Reading of Newspapers: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER: I wish to ask for the co-operation of members in regard to the reading of newspapers in the House. I think all Speakers I have known have, at one time or another, had to address themselves to members on this matter.

It has been a long-standing practice that the reading of newspapers—certainly the obvious reading of newspapers—has been frowned on in the House of Parliament. Some Speakers have taken the view that the reading of newspapers should be banned in the Chamber. I do not subscribe to that view and I never have done, so I will not attempt to introduce a ban.

Most Speakers have also said that at times members are almost completely obscured by their newspapers when reading from them. This is an affliction which has been caught by new members and rather than let it go on any longer I ask members, if they must read newspapers in the Chamber—and there are occasions when members want to do this—to try to read their papers without obscuring themselves in any manner which gives offence to anyone, particularly the Speaker.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR MOILER (Mundaring) [8.08 p.m.]: This evening I propose to utilise some of the time which has been allocated to me to raise a matter which, I believe, has been activating the minds of a number of members from this side of the House. Some members have even referred to this matter in the House, and I instance the member for Rockingham who did touch on the subject, and the member for Morley, who has, by way of question, given the impression which I certainly intend to convey tonight.

It appears to me there is an obvious trend towards the deferment of the construction of new schools, and the additions to schools, in Labor-held areas. Such action would suggest undue influence from the Government on the Education Department to ensure that where pruning of expenditure is to be made, it is to be in Labor-held electorates.

Mr Nanovich: With the previous Minister you tried for 18 months for a deputation, while I got one after two months with this Government.

Mr Rushton: The position in my electorate has never been as bad as it was during the last three years.

The SPEAKER: Order. The member for Mundaring.

Mr MOILER: I do not know whether the interjection from the member for Toodyay means there will be some special favouritism towards the Toodyay electorate in the future!

At the outset I would like to make the point that I am not quibbling about any area which is fortunate enough to receive a new school, or additions to an existing school; I am quibbling about the fact that the Government does not make more money available to ensure that the promised schools are built.

Mr Rushton: Inflation is killing us.

Mr MOILER: I make the claim without intending to be derogatory towards the Education Department. I believe the department does its best but it is obvious the final decision rests with the Government.

I make this claim tonight and I challenge the Minister to prove my claim wrong. I would be happy if he could do that, and I offer him the opportunity to do so at some later stage.

I wish to outline some of the development—or lack of development—which has occurred—or which has not occurred—in the Mundaring electorate since the present Government took office. I will commence by explaining that a little over six weeks ago, towards the end of May, I received confirmation in writing from the Director-General of Education that the high school proposed to be established in the Swan View area would be open and available to take first-year students during 1975. The director-general indicated that it was quite possible the school would not be ready for the very first day of the school year in February but, undoubtedly, it would take first-year students next year.

The local governing authority received plans of the proposed building so it will be seen that it was well under way and ready to go. Naturally, the parents of the children who were to attend the school were pleased with the proposal to go ahead.

For some time there has been overcrowding at the Governor Stirling High School and because of this it became necessary for the Education Department to move into the Swan View area. As I mentioned, the school was promised by the previous Labor Government. I would say, from memory, that the Governor Stirling High School has had the highest enrolments of any high school in Western Australia for

possibly 10 of the past 12 years, and perhaps longer. The school has continually had an attendance of between 1 500 and 1 600 children and that was one of the main reasons for the construction of a new school at Swan View. There has also been continued development in the eastern section of the hills area, around Greenmount and Swan View. However, the building of the school has now been deferred.

I would like to bring to the notice of members a Press release which was given to me by the Minister. However, I did not see this release in print, other than in a small fortnightly local paper covering the area of Mundaring—and to whom I provided this information.

This release says that the Swan View high school will be deferred, and it states that the Eastern Hills High School, presently a three-year high school, was to be upgraded to a fourth-year high school in the next year. Incidentally this high school is on the eastern extremity of the Mundaring electorate.

In the last paragraph the Minister claims that these steps would ease the position at the Governor Stirling High School. To make this quite clear I will read the Press release—

The Hon. Minister for Education, Mr. G. C. MacKinnon today approved the introduction of fourth year secondary classes at the Eastern Hills High School in 1975. The establishment of these classes will be followed by fifth year classes in the school in 1976, when the school will be reclassified as a Senior High School.

Mr. MacKinnon referred to the considerable increase in costs which had taken place in the building of new secondary schools and as a result it was necessary to defer the establishment of a new high school at Swan View.

Mr Rushton: Two out of every six have been lost through inflation.

Mr MOILER: I will come back to that in a moment. I can see little connection between the two schools mentioned, and I cannot see why they were grouped together in the Press release. It continues—

The establishment of the upper school classes at Eastern Hills would not only be of major benefit to the students in the area but it would ease the position at the Governor Stirling Senior High School where students in the first three years of secondary education would continue to be enrolled.

I would like to explain that with normal progression the Eastern Hills High School was entitled to be upgraded to a fourth-year high school next year. Maybe it should have been upgraded this year.

Mr Blaikie: What about last year?

Mr MOILER: That is probably true. I cannot accept for one minute that the upgrading of the Eastern Hills High School was anything but warranted on the ground of priority.

On Wednesday, the 7th August, I asked the Minister a question on notice. I asked how many third-year high schools there are in Western Australia, and he replied that there are seven only in the State. These high schools are at Bridgetown, Eastern Hills, Harvey, Kambalda, Margaret River, Mt. Barker, and Newman. Of these seven high schools, three will be upgraded to take fourth-year students next year—Eastern Hills, Harvey, and Mt. Barker. So that will leave only four three-year high schools in this State.

Of the seven three-year high schools mentioned, Eastern Hills accommodated 476 students in March of this year—100 more students than the school with the next highest enrolment of 378 students.

Mr Blaikie: Which school is that?

Mr MOILER: That is Harvey. I am trying to make the point that Eastern Hills had the priority—it was entitled to be upgraded to a fourth-year high school regardless of the position at Swan View or Governor Stirling High Schools. My belief is further strengthened by the knowledge that there is no public transport east of the high school. After leaving third year the students from this area cannot rely on public transport to enable them to finish their fourth and fifth year studies.

The natural growth of the area is more than sufficient to assure us that any money expended will not be wasted. The population is growing all the time, and the high school enrolment figures are rising every year. In September, 1973, I asked the Minister for Education, amongst other things, this question—

What is the anticipated enrolment for 1974?

The answer was 452 students.

At the commencement of this school year, only six months after I asked that question, 476 students were enrolled at the Eastern Hills High School. That is 24 students more than the estimated figure given by the Education Department last September. This supports my claim that the area is growing continually and the children must be catered for. This high school should certainly be upgraded on a priority and need basis, irrespective of whether or not the area is represented by a Labor member.

Mr Rushton: Who are the Legislative Council members for this area—Liberal Party members?

Mr MOILER: If the Minister wishes to speak about the Legislative Council, he may.

Mr Rushton: They represent the area too.

Mr MOILER: That is the Minister's opinion.

Mr Bertram: The House of Review!

Mr MOILER: From the Karmel funds, the Australian Government allocated \$100 000 to Eastern Hills High School for upgrading. This had nothing to do with fourth and fifth-year studies; it was to replace temporary classrooms and to provide for matters of this nature. The money was allocated for the 1974 year and members will realise that these funds are allocated for the calendar year and not for the financial year.

This allocation of \$100 000 has not yet been spent. However, through questions to the Minister, it has been confirmed that there will be no further expenditure at the school. The additional fourth-year students will be absorbed into this school without extra funds being expended.

As I have already mentioned, a high school is very necessary in the Swan View area because of the growth of enrolments at Governor Stirling High School. For 10 to 12 years, and possibly longer, Governor Stirling High School—except for the occasional year when it may be displaced to second position—has had the highest enrolment figures in the State. If steps are not taken to accommodate the students from the outlying areas of Swan View, Greenmount, etc., Governor Stirling High School will continue to hold this unfortunate position.

On Thursday, the 8th August, I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Education—

Would the Minister provide a list of all senior high schools, their enrolment figures for the commencement of the 1974 school year, and their present enrolment numbers?

The figures were provided, and it is remarkable that Como Senior High School has an enrolment of 747 students, Hollywood High School has an enrolment of 776 students, but Governor Stirling High School has an enrolment of 1 542. The Swanbourne Senior High School has an enrolment of 654 students and members will see that Como, Hollywood, and Swanbourne each cater for approximately half the number of students attending Governor Stirling High School.

Mr Young: Do you have the figure for Scarborough?

Mr MOILER: If the honourable member is not up on details relating to his electorate, I can inform him that the Scarborough Senior High School has an enrolment of 1 327 students.

Mr Young: That is a Liberal area.

Mr MOILER: Yes, although I advise the honourable member before he goes much further not to go into this matter too deeply. This high school in a Liberal area is the exception rather than the rule.

Mr T. D. Evans: If the Government carries out its plans, it will need three senior high schools in Scarborough.

Mr Clarko: Where did you get that figure?

Mr T. D. Evans: Your policy is no more than 400 students at a senior high school.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MOILER: The disappointing feature about this is the fact that the Australian Government allocated \$8.1 million to Western Australia for general building additions, in addition to sums previously provided to the States for education. In the past the State Government had to find much of this money itself. Surely with this extra injection of Commonwealth funds, the present Government should be able to bring education up to the standard at which the previous Government was aiming.

Mr Blaikie: Don't you think this new policy will speed it up?

Mr MOILER: The Government does not know what it is doing with the new policy. Many questions have been asked by members on this side of the House, but the answers obviously indicate that Government members do not know what is going on.

Mr Young: You are not right—only one side of the House does not know.

Mr McIver: Why don't you tell us? Why don't you answer the questions?

Mr Clarko: You never added one fundamental item to education in the whole three years you were in Government. Every new idea came from the Education Department.

Mr Bryce: What about the free textbooks?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr McIver: We were the only Government ever to tackle education.

Sir Charles Court: Why don't you look for your lost files?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MOILER: So I am not quibbling about the fortunate areas where school buildings have been erected and additions have been made, but I am quibbling about the Government's attitude. The Government should find this finance for the development that was promised in the past. There is no good reason that the Government cannot do this.

I would like to interpolate here that when I received the information that the Swan View high school would not be proceeded with, like many of the parents of children affected in the area, I was distressed.

These people have arranged a public meeting to discuss this matter to be held tomorrow night in the Greenmount hall to which they have invited the Minister

and officers of his department and I invite them to explain what the Government proposes to do in the field of education and to establish whether there is an alternative to the deferments which are to take place.

Before leaving the subject of education and the electorate of Mundaring I recall that a member opposite stated that the building of some schools in his electorate had also been deferred. The primary school at Mundaring which does not have a library or a resource centre is built on possibly the busiest highway in the State; namely, the Great Eastern Highway, and the children's studies are continually interrupted due to the traffic noise outside. We were promised a new school to take its place next year, but this proposal has been deferred. Do members realise that some of the classrooms at this school in which children are now being taught were used by their grandparents many years ago? That is how old this school is.

Mr Hartrey: They probably received a better standard of teaching, too.

Mr Young: I have students in my electorate who are being taught in accommodation that was designated as temporary 20 years ago. I am not receiving any preferential treatment. I earbashed the Minister for Education in the Labor Government and I am doing the same with our Minister for Education and with the department to try to improve the situation. However, I am not receiving any preferential treatment.

Mr MOILER: Let the honourable member stand and comment on this situation later. I have made my point regarding the state of education in Western Australia. I ask the Minister for Education to explain the Government's attitude towards education at the public meeting tomorrow night; nothing could be fairer than that.

Mr Young: Well, you have the best Minister for Education we have had for about 30 years to deal with the problem. You need not have any worries about that.

Mr T. D. Evans: How many years?

Mr MOILER: The Minister for Education obviously must be severely handicapped by his Premier because apparently he is not allowed to put into operation those many things he would like to do to make him the best Minister we have had for 30 years.

Mr Young: There is no fear about that.

Mr MOILER: If this Liberal-Country Party-cum-National Alliance Government really cared as it claims it does, it would take steps to direct the work force away from the continuing and unnecessary erection of office blocks and into the building of schools and the like.

As I have explained, I wanted to speak primarily on the downturn in education which has occurred not only in the Mundaring area but also throughout the rest

of the State. I acknowledge that other members, because of the professions they were engaged in before coming into this Chamber, may be better suited to speak on educational matters generally than I.

Mr Rushton: Why do you not tell us something of the very good shire councils you have up there and of which you should be very proud?

Mr MOILER: Well, if the Minister were to read some of the correspondence I have received from the council, he would see that it is very proud of its member, too.

Mr Bertram: So they should be and so they are.

Mr B. T. Burke: And so are we.

Mr MOILER: I will leave that matter for the time being, emphasising once again that the Australian Government has allocated huge funds to Western Australia, and the State Government under the directorship of the present Premier, who was going to do so much and who claimed a couple of years ago he had the answer to the unemployment problem and could fix it within six months, has not accepted its responsibility in this direction. Let us hope that this Government can continue the improvements in the education system and facilities which were being implemented by the previous Government. Let us hope we can get away from the muddle we face at present.

Mr Rushton: How do you explain the 360 children who were without a school in my area during 1972? The member for Rockingham is still yelling his head off about something you people could not fix up.

Mr B. T. Burke: That is because you were the member for that area last March.

Mr Rushton: If that is what you are claiming, there should be another investigation.

Mr MOILER: I should now like to refer members to an anomalous position which has arisen since the Court Government took office when, within a period of a little over a month, it reversed a decision of the previous Government.

Mr Stephens: More than one.

Mr MOILER: By doing so, it demonstrated once again the muddle it is in to the detriment generally of the Western Australian public. I refer to the Government's action in reducing meat inspection fees charged by State and local government authorities. I have mentioned this matter previously, as the Premier and the Deputy Premier—the Minister for Agriculture—would know. At the time, the Deputy Premier said I would receive an answer to my query. I hope that he will interject on me to explain the situation and on this occasion will have something worth while to say. I suggested previously that the Liberal Government must have had pressure placed upon it by some organisation,

because it reduced these charges regardless of the fact that a Government department had carried out an investigation into the matter and found that an increase was well and truly warranted.

This Government took office with a Country Party Minister for Agriculture and a Country Party Minister for Health who are supposed to look after the people of the country, and yet within a month of taking office it reversed a decision of the previous Government and reduced meat inspection fees. Apparently the Government is not in a position to tell this House how much this reduction in fees has cost local authorities with abattoirs within their shires, but in reply to a question I asked, seeking to know whether any local authority was making a profit from abattoirs operating within its shire the Minister stated that figures submitted by local authorities indicated that no local authority recouped the full cost of meat inspection services in 1973-74. I would venture to say that some local authorities would have lost up to \$10 000 in a 12-month period for the services rendered.

In the 12 months ended June, 1974, the meat inspection section of the Public Health Department of Western Australia lost \$168 324. Yet within one month of its election, this Government reversed the increased charges which were implemented by the previous Government after a thorough investigation and allowed that section of the Public Health Department to run at such a loss. One wonders just where the Government is going when it does things like that. Who is paying for this loss? Obviously, it is the taxpayer. Whether a person eats a pound of meat a week or eats no meat, or whether he is able to buy some very nice cuts of meat, he will pay for that loss. Surely the person who consumes the meat is the one who reasonably should be expected to cover the cost of meat inspection. There is nothing strange about such a proposal. The Deputy Premier is looking at me; I do not know whether he wants to interject, but I hope he does.

The SPEAKER: It would be quite dis-ordered of him to do so.

Mr MOILER: Yes, but it would not be unusual for him to get out of his depth in this regard.

Mr McPharlin: I like to give you a go.

Mr MOILER: I appreciate that. But just to show that I am not being derogatory of the Minister for Agriculture, on Thursday, the 8th August, the member for Wellington (Mrs Craig) asked the Minister for Agriculture the following question—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the increased scale of charges for meat inspectors at abattoirs introduced by the Tonkin Government in February 1973 is still in operation?

Well, it was not, of course, unfortunately for the State taxpayers. I draw the attention of members to the third part of the question asked by the member for Wellington. It reads—

- (3) In the event of the amount paid for meat inspection by abattoirs to local shires being greater than the actual cost to the shire of this service, has the shire concerned any discretion in the amount charged?

The Minister answered that they have a discretion.

However, today, the 14th August, I asked the following question—

In what way does a local authority have discretion as to the meat inspection fee that may be charged for the service provided?

The reply I received was—

The local authority is bound to observe the regulations without the exercise of discretion.

Those are two completely different answers; one says that they have a discretion and one says that they do not.

Mr B. T. Burke: Another censure motion!

Mr MOILER: I do not think it warrants a censure motion but I think it demonstrates that the Minister does not know where he is going or what he is doing on this issue. I suppose this is the only charge the Government has reduced since it came into office, but for whose benefit? It is not for the benefit of the taxpayer or country people. By this action, some country shires would be losing in the vicinity of \$10 000 a year. Most of the stock that is slaughtered and inspected in those areas is sold in the metropolitan area. So, in effect, the country people, who Country Party members are supposed to represent, are subsidising the meat consumers in the metropolitan area.

Mr McPharlin: You are aware of course that the matter of inspection fees is the concern of the Public Health Department.

Mr MOILER: The Minister is trying to shove it off onto the Minister for Health.

Mr McPharlin: I am not shoving it off onto anybody; it just happens to be true.

Mr MOILER: But the Minister is Deputy Leader of this Government and he has allowed this to take place. He took no action to stop this charge being reduced.

Mr McPharlin: We reduced a charge that your Government had increased.

Mr MOILER: Why did the Minister's Government reduce the charge? At whose request?

Sir Charles Court: Do you not want to see a cost to the consumer reduced?

Mr MOILER: Of course we do but we also want the cost to be borne by those who cause that cost to be incurred. The person who does not eat meat is paying the same amount as the person who eats a lot of meat.

Sir Charles Court: If you talk to your local authority you will find that it knows the Treasury is studying the whole position to work out an equitable arrangement as far as the local authority is concerned. They will tell you that; ask them.

Mr MOILER: The Premier may well have written the answer I received to the question I asked, because it was almost word perfect. The plain fact is that these areas are operating at a loss whilst this investigation, which is unnecessary, is in progress.

Mr McPharlin: Why is it unnecessary? We are having an investigation.

Mr MOILER: If the Minister is holding an investigation now, why did he reduce the charge? Why did he not wait and find out whether it was reasonable to reduce the charge? Surely the Minister is reducing the charge merely at the request of a small selective group.

Mr McPharlin: The matter needs further investigation.

Mr MOILER: In my opinion the Government needs further investigation, too. It is fairly evident that on this issue the House, whilst not being misled, has obviously been given two different answers to similar questions. I would also point out that I asked that question only because I felt sure the Minister was wrong when he answered the question asked by the member for Wellington.

I think the Minister for Local Government mentioned something about my experience in local government. This gives me a lead in, and tonight I wish to congratulate the Minister on his announcement relating to the one hectare subdivision proposal. I wish to say that it is fortunate for him that he is the Minister who has introduced this innovation. In the main, this decision will affect the outer metropolitan shires. The decision was arrived at in consultation with the Town Planning Board, the previous Minister for Local Government, and the outer metropolitan shires when they were considering matters such as this.

I am pleased the present Minister is continuing to tread the same path trodden by the previous Minister and has agreed to this proposal.

Mr Rushton: It is a direct policy of ours and it varies somewhat when compared with what was originally proposed.

Mr MOILER: I realise that some control will still have to be exercised over it, because I can visualise many pitfalls.

Mr Rushton: Nothing is easy, no matter what you try to do.

Mr MOILER: Nothing worth while is easy; that is so.

The SPEAKER: The member has five minutes—perhaps six minutes.

Mr MOILER: Having worked in the local government sphere for some years I have a great deal of time for local government and I believe that as time goes by it will become even more influential. It is referred to as the third arm of Government now, but I believe it will, in time to come, become more influential and more powerful. The fact is that the present Australian Government is the first Commonwealth Government to acknowledge the work of local government by making grants direct to local authorities. I think this is a great move.

It is a little disappointing, however, that the Minister, in some way or other, is trying to become an obstructionist, and I can only imagine that it is the Premier who is using his influence in this regard. The Minister is endeavouring to encourage local authorities not to participate in this system of obtaining funds from the Australian Government but local government has been asking for this since Federation. Now we have an Australian Government which is offering to advance moneys to local authorities, an action which those bodies have been requesting for years.

Mr Rushton: They do not mind taking the money as long as they do not get their throats cut.

Mr MOILER: As a result of the action taken by the Australian Government I am certain that we will see local authorities becoming more powerful. However, during the interim period we will see the formation of local authorities into regions and so breaking down the present position of parochialism between shires.

Mr Rushton: It is another tier of Government.

Mr MOILER: We will break down parochialism that exists in the shires at present and so they will become more effective and more powerful. I certainly hope that by that time methods of electing councillors will become more democratic, and I also hope the Australian Government does not make large amounts of finance available to local authorities until their system of representation does become more democratic.

Mr Rushton: What is undemocratic about it?

Mr Hartrey: It is not based on the system of one-man one-vote.

Mr MOILER: The position whereby a person shall be elected or not as a councillor is decided on whether or not a person owns or occupies land, and that is undemocratic. Until such time as that system is altered it will always be undemocratic. As

members will realise, when we reach the stage of having proper representation in local government elections, the Local Government Association will be changed from a Liberal club to a truly representative club.

In conclusion I refer back to the issue on which I spoke at the outset of my speech. The main reason I rose to my feet tonight was to speak on the subject of education. Once again I say that I have no regrets in having made the assertion I did make, because I want the Minister and the department to have every opportunity to show the members of this House and the public that they know where they are going, and that they are dealing with matters in their right priority and so tell the people what is happening. I therefore sincerely hope the Minister will take notice of the remarks I have made.

MR GREWAR (Roe) [8.52 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I wish to join with my fellow members in congratulating you on your promotion to your high office. Your impartiality has already been clearly demonstrated.

My congratulations are also extended to members elected to the Parliament on both sides of the House, to the Premier and Cabinet, to the Leader of the Opposition and his shadow Ministers. I trust that this Parliament, regardless of different ideologies of the parties, will achieve much for the good of Western Australia.

We are all here because of our beliefs, and our desire to implement changes for the good of the people of this great State.

I have grown up in the free enterprise system and believe in it. It is a system which has developed this country to the status of a great nation. To me it represents the rights of the individual to freedom, justice and self fulfilment. I will challenge any system of Government that takes away these rights.

I wish recorded my appreciation of the former member for Roe (Mr Bill Young). During his seven years in this House he worked hard for the people in the electorate and brought about many improvements to their way of life.

My thanks are extended to the Hon. David Wordsworth for his help and encouragement prior to and since my election to Parliament.

Tonight I wish to acquaint the House with problems which exist in my electorate and to inform members that, by virtue of our remote location and recent development, our problems are somewhat different from those of other areas.

During my address I wish to highlight many aspects of specific concern to the people I represent and would hope that this Government will take some cognisance of what I have to say.

There have been many problems in Roe that have been shelved by Governments and it is my constituents' wish that these be brought to the notice of the Government.

The Roe electorate comprises the Shires of Gnowangerup, Ravensthorpe, Lake Grace, Kent, and Esperance. It covers a total area of 27 000 square miles, approximately 300 miles long by 90 miles wide, with a population of 15 379.

A small population no doubt by comparison with metropolitan electorates, but what we lack in numbers we make up in quality—the quality of the rural Australian citizen now fast disappearing as our society becomes more urbanised; citizens who have taken up the challenge to move to frontier country to develop new farms, new industries and new communities.

Because the area is mainly heath and mallee land, it had largely been neglected for agriculture until recent times. Scientists of the Department of Agriculture and enterprising farmers only 20 years ago took up the challenge to pioneer the development of this inhospitable country. In these 20 years the transformation has been spectacular.

A tribute must be paid to the Brand-Court Government for taking the bold and progressive step of releasing vast areas of virgin farm lands during its term of office. Much of this was in the Roe electorate. It was because of that Government's enthusiasm that the area today is so soundly based and thriving.

In retrospect, the area has had a most exciting history and the challenge has enriched the lives of the people who make up the community. It has been an achievement for science, for the fortitude, courage and determination of the people who pitted themselves against a hostile environment. There have been stories of success and stories of failure—people with very limited means, people with fortunes, people from all walks of life, bus drivers, wharfies to presidents of American banks have been involved in this great development.

As I started out to say, however, we have problems—big problems yet to face. It has been interesting to hear speakers make reference to small sections of their electorates not having deep sewerage. We have only one small town sewered. Most of the area does not receive TV.

Electricity—for years considered so much a part of the life of cities or older areas of the State—is a fairly recent introduction to our area. There are still towns without power supplies, where Tilley lamps still provide illumination.

A considerable number of our towns do not have reticulated water. Telephones are not available to all settlers and, when installed, can cost the subscriber a connection fee as high as \$4 000 to \$5 000. Hospital services are available at three

centres up to 120 miles away. Apart from Esperance the nearest doctor is at Gnowangerup—a distance of 200 miles.

One high school with an associated hostel serves the educational needs of the area. Many farmers still live in sheds in conditions city health officers would condemn.

As can be appreciated, the people of this electorate have endured many hardships to pioneer the region. Their privations have made them more thoughtful of their fellows. They are people who do not condone strikes or slow-downs; people with a great community spirit who provide their own services, recreation, and other amenities. They are people I am proud to represent.

Urbanisation has done much to destroy the quality of life of Australians. The basic ingredients that historians and writers tell us was once Australia have largely gone.

The electorate is essentially rural in character. It supports one major centre, the Port of Esperance, and 12 small towns. There are a few industries, in the main servicing agriculture. Our main enterprises are cereal growing and livestock raising. We also support small fishing and mining industries.

The fortunes of agriculture in the past 10 years are well known to members. Since 1965 the prices for our products fell continually until 1972-73. Survival of farmers has depended on improved efficiency and technology. It is worthy of mention that per unit of labour input, we are the most efficient agricultural country in the world. The year 1972-73 saw a dramatic change of fortune. Farmers who took advantage of the improved cash position paid off some of their accumulated mortgages and re-tooled their equipment. But the holiday is now over. We are entering a major recession in prices for our products.

I do not think the community at large is yet fully aware of the seriousness of the present situation. The downturn of prices for wool and meat places farmers in a worse position than in 1970—a time when many left the land. If this downward trend continues for very long, or costs continue to escalate, the effect will flow on to the entire community. As a nation we are still vitally dependent on agricultural income.

The agricultural industry deserves some consideration by the Government for the following reasons—

- (1) This industry bears the main brunt of tariff impositions in order to support our less efficient secondary industries;
- (2) it provides goods to the Australian consumer at a cheaper price than could be obtained on world markets;

(3) it sells its surplus products in a market place supplied by other countries heavily subsidised to produce similar goods; and

(4) it bears big inbuilt freight costs to these market places.

To compete profitably we must of necessity be efficient in our production and marketing. We need production incentives—not handouts. In the national interest it is better for farmers to receive a super subsidy than to have to restrict production. Let us get one fact straight: the super subsidy is a subsidy to the consumer because it is passed on in cheaper products.

By the foregoing remarks I have tried to justify the need for the Government to watch closely the prosperity of agriculture. It is vital to our economy that this industry be not unjustly discriminated against. I genuinely believe that this has happened. I would refer members to the rural policy in Australia—the green paper—which sets out in very clear terms the role of agriculture, its problems, and recommendations for future stability.

Not all farmers are rich land barons. If I achieve nothing else in this address, let me impress upon members that the average farmer is a very poor member of our society, with a mean income of \$3 120 per annum compared with \$3 900, the average of all male workers in Australia. My reference is a green paper of 1968-69.

The State Government may not have great powers in influencing the Federal Government on major issues of policy, but it can help considerably in assisting farm technology. Our State Department of Agriculture has made a great advance in knowledge in the development of some of the world's most inherently infertile soils—land that would still be lying idle if it were not for trace elements and subsoil. The techniques were perfected by the officers of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, not by the CSIRO or other research institutions, but by our Western Australian team. Their achievements have had far-reaching effects on our economy. The story, however, does not end here. There are still many unknowns and innovations to be perfected.

We have diseases in our pastures which are reducing production up to 50 per cent in some areas. These are—

Crop varieties unsuited to our south coastal farm lands; and

Insect pests ravaging our pastures and crops.

Australia must rank last in the development of new plants for agriculture. In most advanced countries plant breeders have developed pasture types suited to different micro climates, soil types, or, for different purposes, plants tailor-made for their environment.

Within the Department of Agriculture there is a Rural Economics Branch that has been of considerable assistance to farmers in making them acquainted with business management principles. However, unless one can forecast likely costs and returns with some accuracy, the budgeting exercise is a wasted effort. Greater emphasis must be placed by this branch on expanding its research into marketing trends. The farmer must know where he is going. He has enough variables due to seasons, etc., without adding any of prices.

More country-based advisers are needed to disseminate research findings to farmers. The present approach of mass communication, because of the limited number of men in the field, is not the answer. A return to more individual farm visits is necessary. It brings the adviser on to the farm where he can readily identify a problem that the farmer may not be aware he has. There appears to be a need to regionalise many of the specialised branches within the department. At the present time most of the research officers are now located in Perth, travelling to country areas for a few days to investigate a problem. There is a need to establish specialised research units in the country where they would be in close contact with the problems.

In my opinion there needs to be a greater awareness on behalf of farmers towards soil conservation. Our heritage—the soil—is being washed away continuously. One only has to fly over the agricultural areas to see the denudation that has taken place in the short period of 50 to 60 years. The attack on this problem is now being carried out in a piecemeal way; only here and there are farmers applying preventive measures. It would be my wish to see a more comprehensive approach adopted in this field and I would suggest that whole catchments be treated simultaneously—there should be a whole district approach rather than our dealing with isolated trouble spots.

I would now like briefly to touch on wheat quotas. There has been only one year in the past 10 in which restrictions on wheatgrowing have been necessary and this was the year prior to the introduction of quotas. Wheat quotas were allocated on a farmer's "production history" basis and tended to favour well-established farmers. Many new land farmers did not have a big history during this period of review—1965-1969 inclusive—or they may have entered the industry after this time. Because of this many have been restricted by the allocation they received. Quotas have not enabled the efficient farmer to expand his wheatgrowing enterprise, but have allowed the inefficient one to survive. There is an urgent need to rethink this whole question. I, and most Roe farmers, are being penalised by this inequity and would prefer to see a relaxation of quotas for several years. Wheat is in world

shortage again this year and the Australian crop will fall short of its expected production. It would have been an ideal year to forgo restrictions.

I would now like to say a few words on marketing boards. Agriculture, by its very nature, cannot produce at a constant or predetermined level. We have seasonal variations leading to gluts or shortages. When superimposed on a world situation the price received for primary products can vary much from year to year. Some instability is tolerable but not the violent fluctuations as at present—50 per cent drop in wool prices this year.

We need some security by way of a predetermined price. This is possible only through orderly marketing schemes. I would instance stability in grain growing due to grain boards. The bulk of our farmers' income is obtained from wool and meat, both sold under an auction system—a selling system I cannot condone. It is so easily possible for buyers to form cartels.

There is one organised body representing buyers of wool—the International Wool Textile Organisation. The buying pressure must, therefore, be taken out of the auction to the detriment of sellers. Wool, like iron ore or motorcars, has a value and should be sold on the same basis as other goods or services, at a price based on cost of production. If a farmer cannot produce at this figure he should either improve his efficiency or change his enterprise.

There is one word of warning, however; orderly marketing boards can become bureaucratic and inflexible. There should be scope within their terms of reference for quick adjustments if, and when, situations alter.

I wish to look now at the question of farm land releases. If I could start by offering Western Australia a \$100 million industry with few strings attached, the response no doubt would be very favourable. We can offer this in the Roe electorate—four to five million acres of land ready and waiting for development, land capable of producing annually 15 million bushels of grain, 100 000 bales of wool, 500 000 carcasses of mutton or, in money terms at today's value, at least \$35 million per annum.

The basic infrastructure to support more farmers is already established in our towns. Many businesses and servicing agencies have been planned for expansion. The viability of the new Esperance Abattoir could well hinge on the expansion of our agriculture enterprise.

We have the land resources, the men ready to start developing, and most of the capital. Our products are needed in world markets. We are not suggesting that vast areas of virgin Crown land be made available for selection in a short period of time,

but rather a realistic release of 60 to 70 blocks per annum. The first release would test the demand and the type of applicant available. Many of our established farmers have sons old enough and keen to tackle the job. Most of these have access to farm machinery and stock. There are also young men who are share-farming, contracting, or managing properties who have over the years saved their money in the hope of one day being able to have the opportunity to acquire land for themselves.

Our district is somewhat unique in that there is ample potential for share-farming and contracting on some of the larger properties. A new settler would, therefore, have the ability to obtain outside income during his establishment years. One enterprise alone spends in excess of \$250 000 per year on contracting operations and has a share-farming potential in excess of 20 000 acres per year.

I would strongly recommend that the Government view favourably this request for the future stability of this region.

I would briefly like to comment on the Federal Government's removal of tax concessions for primary producers. As I have stated before, our agricultural industry is extremely efficient. We can produce goods, ship them to distant markets, and offer them at competitive prices against heavily subsidised competitors. This is no chance happening; it has been made possible largely by incentives in our system. The removal of these subsidies will drastically restrict production which will not be in the best national interest. The farmer will still survive, but at a lower production, higher price level. The export income must fall because of decreased volume. I would strongly stress that this Government liaise with the Federal Government for an urgent reappraisal of the tax system.

Before I move away from this area there is a need to make some reference to probate duties. A farmer is somewhat different from fellow members of the community in that during his working life he invests surplus funds into farm build-up. His property, therefore, becomes his superannuation investment. Probate duties are, therefore, somewhat akin to taxing superannuation income. Such a tax is grossly unjust. Sections of the community who try to help themselves—and this country—should be encouraged to do so, not penalised.

I would now like to make reference to secondary industry in relation to its ability to survive in country areas. The subject of decentralisation of industry is one which could well occupy a full address. It would be my wish to speak more fully on this matter at some future date. However, there are a few points that I wish to highlight while I have the attention of the House. Before it is too late and while we

have the opportunity, we should take heed of the enormous social problems that occur in areas of high density living. If we really care for this country, and care for the welfare and quality of life of our people, we should realise the social advantages of decentralisation. Economics must not be the sole criterion. It is very much in the national interest that industry be not concentrated in one centre.

One could argue this point on defence grounds alone. But more importantly, decentralisation is a vital factor to the stability of regional towns. At the present time our potential regional growth centres are almost solely dependent on their agriculture servicing role. In times of agricultural recession these industries are often completely disrupted, employees are retrenched and, because of the lack of other employment opportunities, move to our already crowded city. A diversity of industry in these centres could cater for such disruptions or depressions that occur, absorbing those displaced.

Economic considerations are the main basis for the location of industry in the Perth metropolitan region. It is up to our Government to make it possible for industries to function viably in other regional centres. Incentives are necessary initially and here I would like to mention a few leads in this direction as follows—

- (1) Water and power would have to be made available on site, as in the metropolitan area and sold at, or near, metropolitan prices.
- (2) Freight concessions may have to be considered for industries where the raw materials are not available in the area.
- (3) Government guarantees for the establishment of new industry or the expansion of existing ones may be needed.
- (4) Uniform telephone call charges would have to be considered or, at the very least, considerably modified from the present system. This works quite satisfactorily with postage service charges: \$1.71 for a three-minute phone call from Esperance to Perth is a considerable disincentive for industry establishment at our centre.
- (5) The reduction or removal of payroll tax would assist industry to adjust more easily to establishment in a regional centre. It has been highly successful in Victoria and has been a major factor in the establishment of large textile operations in country areas.
- (6) Housing: Because many rural employees are paid in excess of awards or receive high pay because of skills, State Housing

Commission Homes are not always available to them. The expansion of the role of the industrial and commercial housing authority is a matter for serious consideration.

Not all factors are weighed against decentralisation. It has been demonstrated that there have been many advantages for industry to establish in regional centres. A few of these need mentioning—

- (1) Land is cheap.
- (2) Better quality of employees, less absenteeism, and less turnover.
- (3) Travelling time to work is greatly reduced.
- (4) There are fewer industrial disputes.

We have a very active and progressive Department of Industrial Development with many dedicated officers; but, until industry is given financial inducement, no positive change from the present centralisation can be foreseen, at least in the short term.

While on this subject, I would like to make brief reference to a related matter—the use of renewable energy sources. The world oil crisis has stimulated many legislators into rethinking the harnessing of other power sources. We should not neglect our interest in this matter. Australia, by virtue of its latitude, has a tremendous solar energy potential. It has a tidal power availability in the Kimberley of 300 000 megawatts. Are we doing enough to further our future interests?

I would now like to deal with educational problems in my electorate. In the primary area we are adequately serviced. The Education Department is to be complimented on its attention to the provision of primary schools. Wherever there has been a proven need the fullest co-operation has been forthcoming from this department. The use of the demountable classroom has been a boon to the establishment of primary schools in remote sections of the region.

The problems in education begin in the post-primary area in the so-called district high schools, of which there are four in the electorate. Because of attendance numbers it is not possible to upgrade these schools to the status of senior high school.

The variety and extensiveness of the subjects taught leave much to be desired because of limited staffing, which must relate to the pupil ratio. Children wishing to continue their education to matriculation level are therefore handicapped. In some instances parents send their children to the Esperance Senior High School or other high schools outside the area, or to private schools, in an effort to give them a more suitable, professionally-oriented education.

Hostel facilities have been made available by the authority at Esperance, Narrogin, and Katanning. Students wishing to pursue their education to higher levels, but who live beyond the range of high school bus routes, complete their education by residing at hostels. The financial burden on parents whose children attend such hostels is a big imposition on many. The Government has increased the allowance paid to hostels but there is still room for improvement. The annual fees range upwards to about \$1 000 per child per year. The Isolated Children's Allowance Fund pays \$350 for each child, leaving approximately \$650 to be met by the parents. This is a considerable cost burden to many of my constituents. I would urge the Government to give further relief in this field as it is precluding many from continuing their education.

There is an urgent need for a senior high school in the south-east wheatbelt area. Lake Grace is the centre of this vast and expanding region and is the logical site. There are sufficient student numbers in the area to warrant the building of this high school. The case for a senior high school at Lake Grace could be supported on the grounds that it would upgrade the present district high school thereby giving an increased number of pupils the opportunity to receive a more extended education. It would also enable students to have a home situation during weekends, which is now denied to most of them because of the distance of their present schools from their homes.

I would now like to raise a few points on local government, an area subject to a revolution of thought by the Federal Government. The importance of having this third level of government administered by local people, who know and understand their own problems, is of vital concern to country people. Attempts to reorganise and regionalise this form of government will take it further from the people: this will destroy its function and purpose. Rather than taking power from local government there should be a move to expand its responsibilities.

The reduction in CAR grants by the Federal Government shows flagrant disregard for country shire councils and places them in a very serious financial position. These grants have been reduced by approximately 33 per cent. In order that councils may remain viable, this State Government has found it necessary to increase licensing fees by 65 per cent, but even with this infusion of money shires will receive only the same allocation as in 1973-74. Due to inflation and wage increases, country road works and other programmes will have to be reduced by 20 to 30 per cent at least.

I would like to illustrate the severity of reduced funds to one shire—the Shire of Kent—

Roadworks programme reduced by \$69 000.

Retrenchment of 33 per cent of staff, and leaving two vacancies unfilled.

55 per cent increase in rates—serious to a shire where payment in 1973-74 was \$105 per head of population.

I will now discuss one aspect of community welfare. We are creating a select class in our society, a group that does not have to work; people who have gone beyond the bounds of our society's traditions and rules; people who have become degraded and degenerated by alcohol. After three generations of contact with the white community, these Aboriginal people still have not adapted to the white man's customs or patterns of behaviour. They display little motivation or drive and little will to achieve; they have little dignity. Social welfare money keeps them in idleness and drink. The children with no parental guidance soon follow in their elders' ways. Truancy from school is running at a very high figure and petty crime is rife.

We now have on our hands a very serious racial problem. Members should go to Gnowangerup to see it if they do not believe me, but I suggest they do not leave their cars unattended or stray out at night. They should go just to see the wasted welfare money, the smashed houses, and sexual performances in the street—and I am not over-dramatising the situation. The submission to the Royal Commission by the Gnowangerup Shire Council clearly spells out the problem. The incidence of venereal disease is high—20 per cent of the adult population, and this includes three cases of congenital syphilis treated during 1973. This problem of the Aborigines is being compounded by an extremely high birth rate. Do not let us hide away from this problem. It has to be tackled now. Dignity must be restored; motivation and ambition must be encouraged; a sense of purpose must be kindled in these people; *ad lib* drinking must be stopped. The children are the victims and our next generation. What is going to be done to save them from the same fate? Hand-outs must include responsibilities to preserve self-respect. This Aboriginal question is a whole subject in itself; suffice it for me just to touch on it here.

I now wish briefly to comment on housing problems. People are severely disadvantaged by living in the country. Building costs are between 25 and 30 per cent higher in Roe than in the metropolitan area, mainly due to the high cost of freight. This frequently results in country building standards being generally lower than in the city. Relief in respect of transport charges is urgently needed if we are to attract people to the country.

In the rural sector there are many farmers living in partitioned sections of their farm sheds or in very substandard dwellings. They are living under conditions

that many would not believe possible in 1974. Their properties' assets may have a value of tens of thousands of dollars, but all ready cash is being used to maintain their property improvements or provide living essentials. Because they already are heavily mortgaged, it is not possible to raise loan money for even a humble cottage. Banks rate housing on a farm property on very low priority. The pioneering farmer's initial cash reserves had to be poured into his land in order that it might become a viable business enterprise. The home was planned to come later, but, due to falling prices, the day for the homestead has never come. There is no joy in living in a shed. I can speak with some experience on this subject.

Provision of special Government funds is urgently needed to finance housing on farms. There need be no risk for the Government. Purchase conditions could be the same as for State Housing Commission homes. The houses themselves could be transportable or demountable and could be removed if default occurred in payment.

With new Crown land allocations a house could be provided under these terms. It would enable the farmer to establish his interprise with some degree of comfort, and would enable his wife to fulfil her homemaker role. What other section of the community is expected to pay cash for their homes? Yet farmers are.

I would now like to touch on the lack of Government services in many rural areas. We have in the electorate towns with a population of 100 people or more which have no water or electricity supply. To Government departments they have low priorities because the formula applying to the supply of water and electricity reveals that the cost of the provision of these services is a certain percentage above the mean. I must instance the case of Hopetoun, which is a delightful coastal resort. For nine months of the year the population is fairly constant, but for three months during the summer the population may quadruple. Largely because of this influx of tourists, the town must forego its water and power. The Government will not provide a substandard service and must build dams and power houses to cater for peak loads. The high cost is then charged against the few permanent services. With this system, few tourist towns will ever qualify for services. There are many towns in Roe without water supplies. Some are being considered but only if the budgeted funds become a reality. Governments talk of decentralisation but the whole deal is a sham when it comes to the provision of such a necessity as water.

In the region we are privileged to have one million acres of national parks and flora and fauna reserves. These areas include the Fitzgerald, Cape Le Grande, and Cape Arid national parks, and the Pingrup wildlife sanctuary, plus the islands of the Recherche Archipelago. Most of these

reserved areas lie along the south coast and contain magnificent scenery and a wealth of flora and fauna. The use of these reservations is now largely denied to local residents and tourists. It is possible to enter the Fitzgerald and Cape Arid national parks only by four-wheel drive vehicles. There is an urgent need for Government funds to provide access to selected areas of our national parks. Funding for such works is not possible from the limited resources of local authorities.

The people in the Fitzgerald district are only 25 miles from the coast, but to actually get to the beach involves a trip of 70 miles or more. I am not suggesting a major network of roads through these areas; only a few selected accesses to beaches or scenic spots. This tremendous asset must be made more fully available to our people. Camping areas will have to be provided, with associated facilities. The ranger services will, no doubt, have to be expanded as a safeguard against the spoiling of the parks. No management practices have been applied to the parklands. A rigid and controlled system of burning to maintain our flora is indicated.

As our society becomes more sophisticated, the need for wilderness areas will become greater. It is time to think now and plan seriously for the uses we are going to make of our parks, and their management in the light of their preservation for the future generations.

Before I conclude, one vital point needs to be discussed. Planning for the future in our region is an urgent priority: we have just groped along during our formative years. Servicing facilities, Government utilities, and schools have sprung up more or less as the need arose, with no overall plan. It is my hope that industry, Government disciplines, and planners can come together, assess a region's growth potential, nominate growth focal points, study and integrate transport links, and set about encouraging development along sound lines.

Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [9.27 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, with other members I congratulate you on your appointment to your high office as Speaker of the House. I also congratulate other members on their election to this House of Parliament. I can assure them from experience that if they do their job a seat in Parliament is not an easy one to occupy.

I entered Parliament in 1968, and prior to that I was the Secretary of the Miners' Union for 17 years. During that time I have seen Collie go up and down—probably down more often than up! Since I have been in this House I have on many occasions taken the opportunity to draw the attention of all Governments, particularly the Liberal-Country Party Governments, to the plight of Collie and the coalmining

industry. I have especially drawn attention to the unbalanced and improper policies that have been adopted in the generation of power in Western Australia.

When we look back briefly to the early 1950s, we recall that Collie was a town which experienced a number of strikes. Jobs were uncertain and when miners went on annual leave at Christmas time they were not sure a job would be available for them when they returned. In 1954, 1 560 employees were engaged in the coalmining industry at Collie, and 500 men were employed in the railways. At that stage Collie was a very viable town with a population of around 11 000.

From then on we saw destruction—the type of destruction the member for Canning referred to the other night. In 1960, 500 men were thrown out of work, 300 houses became empty, and a number of shops became vacant, as a result of the policy initiated by the Brand Government. Sir David Brand—who is in the House now—when giving his memoirs to the *Daily News* on the 5th June, 1972, said that one of the hardest decisions he had to make was to throw 600 men out of work and deal Collie that unfortunate blow.

So it will be seen that since I have been here I have attempted to draw the attention of the Government to the reliance which this State at some point in time would place on the coalmining industry. Reference to my submission in support of the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the State Electricity Commission on the 7th October, 1970, will clearly demonstrate that I warned members of the present Government of the shortcomings of their policies so far as the reliance on the Kwinana oil-burning power station for the generation of power was concerned. Of course, associated with this policy, as you would well know, Mr Speaker, was the secrecy which surrounded the price of oil. The Government of the day entered into an agreement with the oil companies not to divulge the price of fuel oil. We know that wharfage charges did not apply, and that these policies were to the detriment of the State and of the coalmining industry in particular.

When the Government was investigating the doubling of the capacity of the Kwinana oil-burning power station it received strong opposition from the trade union movement and the Labor Opposition of the day. It was argued by the then Minister for Electricity (now the Hon. Sir Crawford Nalder) that the coal reserves in Western Australia had a life expectancy of only 30 years. I challenged that figure in this House and it was also challenged by many authorities on coal. It is noteworthy now that a member in another place—in the year 1974—said the other evening whilst referring to coal that we now have reserves of extractable coal in excess of 282 million tonnes, as a result

of the venture undertaken by Peabody Coal, Western Collieries, and the State Labor Government. Unfortunately I cannot quote the name of that honourable member because our Standing Orders do not permit me to do so. However, he is a Country Party member and he had the audacity to say that. He also said that he thought all along there was more coal at Collie than the Government said there was, and he said he was a great supporter of the use of coal. If he was such a great supporter of coal all along, why did he not inform his leader, who was the then Minister for Electricity, of the facts that he purports now to record in *Hansard* after the Labor Government has proved the reserves?

Members cannot deny that Collie has had an unfortunate history. Women and children have suffered in Collie, but now I am very happy to say that we are looking forward to an exciting future as a result of the sane and sensible policies introduced by the Tonkin Labor Government. That Government set about ascertaining the amount of extractable coal in the Collie field. As I have already quoted, the figure released was that the reserves are in excess of 282 million tonnes. I am confident—and only time will tell—that if further leases are granted to the Griffin Coal Mining Company millions of tonnes of additional extractable coal will be discovered between the Stockton and the Ewington depressions.

I am confident that because the drilling programmes carried out in the early part of this century were not of the high standard of the grid system which is now in use, additional coal will be found as a result of the grid system of drilling and that the State will have no worries at all about its reserves of coal. I only hope that when the existing Minister is entering into negotiations to renew oil contracts for the State Electricity Commission he will not enter into an agreement surrounded by secrecy. I say that if it is good enough for the oil combines to know the price of coal, then it is fair enough for the coal companies to know the price of fuel oil. Nobody could argue with that reasoning because if he did it would be tantamount to saying that he agrees with unfair competition. Of course, that is precisely what happened previously.

The oil companies set out not only in Western Australia but in Australia, generally, to threaten the coalmining industry and to undersell that industry so far as thermal heating prices were concerned. Whilst the oil companies made concessional prices available to Governments, they did not make those prices available to farmers or to the general public. So it will be readily appreciated that as a consequence of this policy the man in the street paid for the agreements which the

Government of the day negotiated with oil companies in regard to the supply of fuel oil.

I hope—and again, only time will tell—that the present Minister for Electricity will not fall into the trap of entering into a secrecy pact to the detriment of the coalmining industry in Western Australia when the contracts are renegotiated. I understand this will be considered at about Christmas.

Mr Mensaros: Let us know if you say anything new.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am merely reminding the Minister—and it does not hurt to be reminded on occasions—that I hope I will not have to get up in the House later during his term of office and criticise him for entering into that type of agreement. I hope that the experience the Government has gained will guide it in future. Surely it has learnt a lesson; surely it now recognises the shortcomings of its policy for power generation in Western Australia. I do not know who was responsible for the policy. I tried to find out, but I could not. It was either a case of the Government misleading the State Electricity Commission, or of the State Electricity Commission misleading the Government. Irrespective of what happened, someone is responsible for it. I think I was justified in moving for the appointment of a Royal Commission to ascertain the reason for the insane, insecure policies which were introduced and have now proved, as a result of the Arab oil situation, to be to the detriment of Western Australia and of the coalmining industry.

I am pleased to say that during its term of office the Labor Government decided to add additional units to the Muja station at a cost of \$87 million. That Government decided, in view of the Arab oil situation, to step up the plans for the additional units. I understand the Fuel and Energy Commission, in conjunction with the SEC, is considering whether or not to transfer to Muja the last oil-fired unit planned to be installed at Kwinana.

Obviously the oil situation is well known to both the Government and the State Electricity Commission, so I hope they will not permit the last unit for Kwinana to be installed there, because the Minister would know that on a relative heating basis, coal delivered to Muja costs one-third of the price of oil delivered to Kwinana. I understand that to be the situation, although I stand to be corrected. However, I have good informants, as the Minister would well know. I am informed that on a relative heating basis 2.17 tonnes of coal equals the heating value of one tonne of oil. On a relative basis coal delivered to Muja costs one-third the price of oil delivered to Kwinana.

The oil authorities throughout the world—and I have studied this scene very closely, as members would be aware—tell me that the tendency is for the price of oil to increase.

I am very happy to be able to stand up tonight and say that at last there is no-one more happy than I am about the situation in Collie because we have provided some relief to the town. Job opportunities will be created for young people leaving school; something we have never before witnessed in Collie. We will not see hundreds of empty homes; in fact, already new homes are starting to be built, and two new shopping plazas are under construction. There is an air of prosperity in the town, and it has been revitalised.

Of course, this air of prosperity has not been brought about by the Liberal Country Party Administration, and it is no good saying that it has. We are looking forward to a population of 12 000 to 15 000 in the future. One cannot say that this is the result of the policies of the Liberal Government because if we look at the—

Mr Rushton: At least give us the credit for the shops.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have limited time at my disposal and I cannot enter into conversation with the Minister.

The position is that when the Labor Government took over Collie was in a mess and we did not know where to turn. The future was uncertain, and businessmen did not know whether or not to spend capital on renovating their businesses. But now there is a completely different outlook in the town. As a consequence, during the last State election some Liberal people came to me and said, "In view of what the Labor Government has done for our town I will support you in the election". Whether or not they did support me I do not know; we all receive promises like that. These are people who are well known to me and whom I hold in high esteem.

Mr T. D. Evans: What was your majority?

Mr T. H. JONES: It was around 900; but of course the rural scene affected the position. At Brookhampton I won only 11 votes out of 90—the less said about that the better!

Mr Nanovich: You must have been burning oil.

Mr Sibson: No, he criticised the Brookhampton bellringers.

Sir Charles Court: Are you going to tell us who built the first big power station at Collie? It was a Liberal Government.

Mr T. H. JONES: I wish now to speak of other things done for Collie by the Tonkin Labor Government and to place on record on behalf of the Collie people our gratitude to that Government. If members listen to what the Labor Government did

for Collie they will see why I am so thankful to it. Firstly there is the planned \$87 million extension to the Muja coal-fired power house. Then we have the long-term coal contract for the mining industry which the Liberal-Country Party Government refused to enter into, despite repeated requests year after year. I refer also to comprehensive amendments to the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act; the provision of free marron fishing licenses for pensioners—we did not make them pay for those licenses as members opposite did—and the building programme which includes a high school canteen at a cost of \$19 000, a canteen at the Wilson Park school at a cost of \$12 630, a new police station valued at \$86 000, upgrading of the Collie courthouse to the tune of \$25 000, the provision of a new slow learners' school at a cost of \$25 000, additions to the Collie hospital costing \$1 million, and a new Mines Department building at a cost of \$35 000.

I am certain all members would know that before the Labor Government took over Collie was a depressed and forgotten town; but as a result of the sane policies implemented by the Tonkin Government—of which I was honoured to be a member—we now see a great future for Collie. It will soon be bursting at the seams. However, I will say more about that at an appropriate time later.

With regard to the question of railway employees, we have had a tragic reduction from 500 in 1954 to less than 150 now. As a result of the changeover to coal at the South Fremantle power station and the East Perth power station, the upgrading of the coal burnt at Bunbury, the changeover to coal at the South Coogee cement works, and the transportation of coal to Capel by rail—something which the Brand Government permitted to be carted by road, thereby causing congestion on the roads—now one million tonnes of coal in the round will be going out of Collie each year, and this will mean prosperity for the railways and the mining industry.

In addition, I would like to refer to the substantial amendments made during the term of the Labor Government to the Workers' Compensation Act. We introduced the payment of average wages to workers whilst they are on compensation, and we upgraded the various benefits under the provisions of that Act.

A point that worries me is that the State Electricity Commission advertised in the *South Western Times* on the 8th August for tenders for the construction of a number of homes in Collie. That advertisement appeared in the Bunbury newspaper, but not in the *Collie Mail*. I want to know—and I think I have the right to know—why if building is to take place in Collie the advertisement calling for tenders should be confined to the Bunbury newspaper of the 8th August. I have

nothing against Bunbury, but surely if the houses are to be constructed in Collie it is good enough to give Collie contractors the opportunity to tender for the construction of those houses. This is something I would like the Minister to inquire into, because to say the least I do not think Collie received a fair go.

I would like to refer now to some of the funny things which occurred during the last State election. I recall challenging the wedding of the DLP and the Country Party previously in this House and suggesting that I might receive an invitation to that wedding—which I did not receive. Now the divorce proceedings have occurred and, once again, I received no invitation to those proceedings. Of course, during the State election we did not know what was going on. Some members were standing for the National Alliance, and some for the Country Party. In a minute I will prove by an exhibit that we do not know at the present time whether certain members in this House represent the Country Party or the National Alliance.

It will be appreciated that the present Premier challenged the Leader of the Opposition in regard to certain statements made and activities which took place during the election campaign.

On the 8th June, 1974, the following heading appeared in *The West Australian*—

Tonkin calls for names.

He called upon Sir Charles Court to name the people about whom he was talking. It must have been gratifying to the Premier to have that statement recorded under his name. If members cared to find out what went on in Collie they would find they did everything to put me out of office except kill me. In a moment I will prove that this was one of the most underhanded acts I have ever known since I have been associated with politics. I will come to the important one in a moment, but firstly I wish to refer to an article which was published in the *Collie Mail* of Thursday, the 7th March, 1974, which was headed—

"Liberals will win Collie"—Sandy Lewis.

That was his view, but unfortunately for him the people proved him to be wrong.

I have here four photographs that were taken by a member of the Labor Party and they depict two cars in Collie that were owned by a member who stood under the political banner of the National Alliance Party. But do members know what that candidate did? She was endorsed as a candidate for the National Alliance Party, and yet she had Liberal stickers placed on her car which stated, "Let us put things right". What a disgusting state of affairs! Here was a candidate purporting to be a member of the National Alliance Party and yet she and her husband were driving around in cars on which were placed Liberal Party stickers. That candidate lives

only one door away from my home. What a situation! It just shows to what depths the National Alliance Party will go to try to defeat a Labor candidate. That cannot be denied. Of course the Deputy Premier said he was concerned about the seats the Country Party lost. He was concerned all right!

However he was not concerned about knocking my head off in Collie. If he had done so he would have been laughing his head off. He was, of course, concerned about the public statements which indicated that Mr McPharlin was worried about the trend away from the Country Party. He is worried all right! Nevertheless, as soon as the members of his party enter this Chamber they sit together and everything is la-de-da from there on. I ask this question: To what party do the members supporting the Deputy Premier belong? Do they belong to the National Alliance, the Country Party, or what? A reference to *Hansard* will show that every member in this Chamber on the Government side who does not have the "Lib." designation alongside his name, has the letters "C.P." against his name which I presume are an abbreviation for Country Party. However, what do we find in the medium of the Liberal Party with the title of *Today*, which relates to current politics in Western Australia?

Mr T. J. Burke: What is the date of that publication?

Mr T. H. JONES: June, 1974. Inside the cover of this publication appears the heading, "New faces in State Parliament". The article then goes on to refer to Miss Margaret McAleer and to Mrs June Craig. The front page of this publication is all right, the middle is reasonable, but when we reach the back page we find the following—

Liberal/National Alliance Ministry
1974

Well, well! I ask members opposite: Where do they stand? One moment they are married to the DLP and then the next day they are divorced. They stand as candidates for the National Alliance Party and yet we find in the current *Hansard* that they are recorded as being members of the Country Party. They now term themselves as being members of the Liberal-National Alliance Ministry. What a situation!

Sir Charles Court: You must be terribly short of something to talk about!

Mr T. D. Evans: The first marriage ended in an abortion.

Mr T. H. JONES: I now want to leave that subject. For a moment I will turn my attention to the Minister for Police, because I think he would be very dissatisfied if I did not make some reference to his important portfolio. What is worrying me is the activities of bikies in Western

Australia. I have here a copy of the *Collie Mail* dated the 7th March, 1974, in which appeared a statement which estimated that 200 bikies took over Collie.

Mr Rushton: What is the date of that?

Mr T. H. JONES: The 7th March, 1974.

Mr Rushton: When was the election?

Mr T. H. JONES: What has that to do with bikies? Does the Minister think we organised them? I thought the Minister had more mentality now that he is occupying a seat on the front bench. The question of the bikies certainly worried me and it would worry any other member of this House who saw what happened in Collie. I understand that a similar situation was evident in Brookton and Willams. The bikies came into the town and took it over. They knocked the hats off the police sergeants and they ripped the stripes off their uniforms. I congratulate the police officers for the tolerance they showed, but there has to be an end to this type of activity in Western Australia. What happened in Collie was that they were running around the town on their motorbikes waving bike chains above their heads. Some of them were lying in the middle of the street drinking plonk and beer from bottles, and one young lass was seen urinating at the side of one of the hotels. This was a tragic situation. One group of people got together and said, "Let us throw them out of our town." The hotels closed and, throughout the town, people were most concerned. We certainly have to do something about incidents such as this. Everyone in Western Australia will say, "We must put an end to this type of activity", but what are we to do?

Mr O'Connor: We have taken some action.

Mr T. H. JONES: I recommended to the Minister for Police several courses of action that could be taken. One was that helicopters should be provided to control such disturbances, because do members know what happened? When the bikies agreed to leave Collie nobody knew where they were going. It was thought that they would go to the Wellington Weir after they had been granted a certain amount of liquor, but when a visit was made to the Wellington Weir next day they could not be found.

I am serious when I say that helicopters are a must as far as this new task force is concerned. Why should any young person drive around a town on his motorcycle waving a bike chain above his head? We should introduce an amendment to the law making it mandatory for a bike chain to be fixed to the motorcycle. If members had seen the incident in Collie they would agree that it was no laughing matter, and it is certainly not good enough.

I was worried about the women and children in the town, and I repeat that it should be made mandatory for bike chains to be affixed to the motorcycle. Bikies or anyone else should not be permitted to enter hotels waving bike chains above their heads. The Government should give consideration to this very important matter.

Mr O'Connor: This is covered by the law now.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have a letter here from Mr Sims which states that this matter was not considered by me, but I would like to point out that although I am not looking for any praise this is one of the suggestions I advanced.

Mr O'Connor: It is a problem.

Mr T. H. JONES: Today I asked a question as to what equipment has been supplied to the Police Force and at what expense, and the Minister replied that he would not divulge the information because it would be harmful to certain individuals. I believe that we, as responsible people in the community, have a right to know what the task force consists of.

Mr O'Connor: I am prepared to give the member the information later.

Mr T. H. JONES: Why should there be any secrecy about this? Why should we not be able to say to the public, "We have now provided protection against bikies"? Why all the secrecy?

Mr O'Connor: Read the answer to the question and you will see the reason.

Mr T. H. JONES: That is all I want to say about the bikie incident and I hope the Minister will consider what I have said.

Another matter that concerns me is that I asked that the interviewing authorities should interview the hoteliers and the people in the town, but they would not agree to that. The information made available to me is that they interviewed the bikie group, but they would not interview the people who were concerned at Collie. If it was good enough to interview the bikies it was good enough to interview the people in the town where these incidents took place.

Sir Charles Court: Which interviewers are you talking about?

Mr T. H. JONES: I am talking about the police. A police investigation was conducted. From memory, I think Mr Court conducted the inquiry. For the Premier's information, the request was made through me that he should interview the townspeople.

Mr O'Connor: Why did you not speak to your Minister at the time and ask him to do something about it?

Mr T. H. JONES: We went out of our way—

Mr O'Connor: I am sure you didn't approach me.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am not blaming the Minister, but if he cares to make some inquiries he will see what action I took concerning the matter.

Mr Laurance: Get the TLC to write to residents and invite these people into their homes; they did it at Exmouth. That will fix it.

Mr T. H. JONES: I now turn to the important subjects of venereal disease and prostitution. These are questions which are exercising the minds not only of people like myself but also must be exercising the mind of almost every member of Parliament. Firstly, I draw attention to the rapid increase of venereal disease in Western Australia. The figures supplied to me in this House on the 7th August, 1974, show that in 1964, 403 cases of venereal disease were reported, but in 1974 the estimated number of reported cases will be 2 600; an increase, in 10 years, of over 600 per cent. This is most disconcerting. I ask the question: What do we intend to do to solve this problem?

I know a Federal conference is to be held to consider not only this issue but other matters. The situation must certainly be concerning the medical practitioners in this State. It certainly concerns me as a member of Parliament and any responsible member will admit that it must be of some concern to him. This is something to which the Government must give immediate attention. I repeat again the figures I have quoted to show the rapid increase of venereal disease in this State. In 1964 the number of reported cases was 403 and the estimated number of reported cases for 1974 is 2 600. That is enough to say on this matter.

I now turn to the question of prostitution and the operation of call girl services and massage parlours, and the concern generally being expressed in certain sections of the Police Force. I think the Minister would know what I am saying in connection with this matter. In the *Daily News* of the 30th July, 1974, appears an article headed—

CP seeks inquiry on prostitution.

This is a report on the Country Party State conference where members present expressed concern. An extract from that article reads—

A former State president, Mr P. Thorn, who moved an urgency motion on prostitution, said that before the State election the Liberal Party had agreed to have a parliamentary select committee investigate the matter.

This is no laughing matter. It is a very serious matter, especially in view of the high increase of venereal disease in this State. In what sector are attempts being made to combat it? I know the answer, but I will leave it to the Minister to ascertain from where this high incidence of VD is emanating.

It is essential for us to find ways and means to cope with the massage parlours, because there is no doubt about their set-up. From my investigations there is no doubt that hundreds of escort agencies have been established.

Mr O'Connor: From where did you get your information about the hundreds?

Mr T. H. JONES: If the Minister has read *The Sunday Times* he would know. I have not a copy of that newspaper available now, but I could table a copy when the House sits tomorrow. The Minister knows better than I do about the number of massage parlours and escort agencies in Western Australia. If the Minister is not aware of that I will supply him with the information, seeing that I am his shadow Minister.

I want to put forward this point in respect of prostitution generally: What action does the Government intend to take in respect of this matter? Surely it is our obligation as members of the community to ensure that the public are properly informed on this question, because of the grave concern that has been expressed. The Government should face up to this situation, and unless it does the Opposition will do everything in its power to let the people know what is going on.

The main emphasis in this part of my contribution to the debate is on the massage parlours, the escort agencies, and the problems associated with police administration. No doubt members are aware that a number of questions have been asked in the House in relation to this subject, and certain answers have been given. I agree it is not an easy subject to deal with, but I think the Government has a responsibility to take some positive action to inform the people in general of what is going on.

Mr O'Connor: Would you like to suggest what action should be taken?

Mr T. H. JONES: I will not suggest what action should be taken.

Mr O'Connor: I thought you were trying to be helpful.

Mr Sibson: You should try to co-operate.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am very co-operative, and the honourable member told me that years ago. I hope that some consideration will be given to the matter I have raised.

The next question I wish to raise concerns the Minister for Housing. Firstly, I am not satisfied with his decision not to erect homes in Collie. It cannot be denied that there will be 40 new construction employees at the Muja power station, and by December, 1977, there will be an additional 600 employees. In fairness to the Minister he said he considered that employees who are to be engaged in the coalmining industry at Collie are already employed in the town. I pointed out to him in a letter that

the jobs which those men are leaving will have to be filled by other people. Already 24 additional railway employees have come into the town, and by Christmas another 40 construction workers will be there.

I understand that at the present time there are only five vacant houses in Collie. Young people who have contacted me have said that they could not find accommodation at Collie, because of the conditions laid down by the State Housing Commission one of which is that the tenant must have a family. I am raising this matter because it causes concern not only to myself but to the local authority. I hope the commission will look into the question of providing more homes at Collie urgently.

Mr O'Neill: You can rest assured that your representations are being looked into by the commission, and the requirements of the town are being considered. You were complaining that the State Electricity Commission had inserted an advertisement in a newspaper for erecting certain houses. That appeared in a Bunbury newspaper. It is my understanding we have no programme for Collie.

Mr T. H. JONES: The advertisement appeared in the *South Western Times*.

Mr O'Neill: What you said was the SEC called for State Housing Commission homes.

Mr T. H. JONES: I stand to be corrected. One other comment I wish to make relates to the policy of the Housing Commission. We have experienced a very heavy winter in Western Australia. In many centres the laneways and driveways of residences have become boggy. The State Housing Commission will not make available gravel to enable the laneways and driveways to be used. The commission says it is the responsibility of the occupier to supply the gravel, but I do not agree with that contention.

Last week I inspected a number of homes in Donnybrook which come into this category. I would ask the Minister to look into their plight, especially where widows, aged people, and low wage earners are concerned. It should not be their responsibility to supply gravel.

Mr O'Neill: You are talking about the crossways from the roads.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am not talking about the responsibility of the local authority, but about the driveways of the Housing Commission homes. I have made approaches to the commission, but no-one there can do anything about the matter because of an instruction given by the commission. In view of what I have said I would like the Minister to look into this very important question.

One point I wish to raise concerns the schools in my electorate. Recently we had a visit from the Minister for Education,

but after his visit he said that the department would not be able to do anything for the schools at Collie. This concerned me greatly, because the home economics centre is in a shocking condition. The stoves are in disrepair, there are insufficient power points, the space is inadequate, and washing up has to be done in small basins on a table. Replacements are needed and repairs are required. At the laundry centre no water service is connected to the troughs, and the students and staff have to carry the water in buckets. Surely we are not living in the days of the old Anglo-Saxons of Britain!

Mr O'Neill: Did we pull out all these services when we became the Government?

Mr T. H. JONES: Surely in these days we can expect something better than that. I turn to another matter and this concerns the Minister for Police. He accepted our invitation to inspect the Donnybrook gaol. When the Premier was in Bunbury recently he said that the courthouse there was in a deplorable condition. If that is the case I would like him and the Minister for Police to spend a night in the Donnybrook gaol to see the conditions at first hand, because I cannot find words to express them. White ants have ravaged all the boards.

In the building there is one little courtroom, and when the magistrate is considering his decision everyone in the room has to go outside. The house there is occupied by the police sergeant, and the floor is in a shocking condition. On behalf of the people of Donnybrook I make a plea to the Minister to upgrade the facilities.

I would point out that if the building were in Collie I would bring the health inspector along and put forward the suggestion that the premises be condemned. I do not think the Minister will deny that this situation exists at Donnybrook. Repeated representations have been made, and the difficulties confronting police administration—with only one small room for use by the sergeant and the police officer—have been emphasised. Something must be done to overcome the problem. I leave those thoughts with the Minister for Police.

I wish to make a plea in respect of a road in my electorate. This is the road over which the Minister and Mr Lewis—a member for the Lower Central Province—have driven. I am referring to the Donnybrook-Mumballup Road. It is only a small section of road. The traffic which uses this road has been building up, and the condition of the road is causing nightmares to the drivers of heavy vehicles. This road is used by motorists travelling to Katanning and other centres. I make a plea to the Minister to effect improvements to it.

Mr O'Connor: We do have a few small problems in respect of road funds.

Mr T. H. JONES: One would not think so, in view of the financial handout from the Federal Government.

Mr O'Neill: You are always humorous!

Mr T. H. JONES: In the time remaining I want to put up a case on behalf of the small sawmillers in the south-west. I appreciate that the present Minister for Forests has only assumed the portfolio recently. Before doing so I wish to say that I have one other matter to raise concerning the Minister for Police.

No timber permits have been granted to the small sawmills. We are aware of the agreement with Hawker Siddeley under which the State sold vast areas of timber which at the present time are not being used. Furthermore the mill previously belonging to the State Sawmills is not in use, and as a consequence small sawmillers throughout the south-west will be forced to close down operations unless something is done to assist them.

Mr Ridge: Is it not correct to say that the small sawmills there were established on the basis that they obtained their timber from private property?

Mr T. H. JONES: Not altogether. There are a number of these small sawmills at Bowelling and Noggerup which have access to Government leases. I am aware of the situation relating to the availability of forest land, and the effect of the jarrah dieback disease. A number of small operators may be put out of business. There are some reserves in the Warren electorate, such as the Worsley and the North Bowelling reserves; yet small operators are being put out of business. I plead with the Minister for Forests to see whether something can be done to assist the small sawmillers who are placed in this position.

The last point I wish to raise relates to the railways. Something has to be done about the derailments. From the figures that have been supplied to me in answers to questions there have been 62 derailments in 1974. The railway unions are concerned about these derailments.

From investigations we have made we understand the authorities do not agree that derailments are brought about by lack of maintenance. It has been fairly established that when the requisite labour was available there were fewer derailments. I refer to the availability of fettlers; and maintenance of the rails was their job. The fettlers were very conscientious workers. In that period we did not have the same number of derailments as we have had in recent times. An indication of the situation which exists is revealed by the 62 derailments this year. For the period from 1960 to this year the numbers of derailments have been given. In 1960 there were 36 derailments; in 1969 there were 37; in 1971 there were 48; and up to date in 1974 there have been 62.

In view of those figures it is time the Minister for Railways and the Commissioner of Railways implemented another policy dealing with the increased number of derailments in Western Australia. Why are these derailments occurring? I understand that under the contract system that is now adopted the standard of workmanship is not as high as it was under the day-labour system. The figures of derailments are revealing and the railway unions are concerned. I have been requested by them to bring this matter to the notice of the Government.

In relation to the proposed cancellation of certain metropolitan rail services, I asked a question on the 1st August. The question was—

- (1) Will he advise if the railway department is considering the cancellation of suburban rail cars after 8 p.m. from Monday to Friday inclusive, after 1 p.m. on Saturdays and all railcars on Sundays?

The answer was—

- (1) to (3) The MTT is currently examining the service being provided by public transport in the urban area, including the railway service, with a view to co-ordinating the various transport modes into an integrated system which will utilise each to the best advantage.

If the reduction in suburban rail services comes into effect it will be a tragedy. The Government should be considering the introduction of more feeder services, and looking into the electrification and extension of the rail system.

It seems to me that we should look into the extension of the railway system, whether the proposal be an extension to the Rockingham area, the Wanneroo area, or some other area. We have to make an attempt to reduce the number of motor vehicles on the roads and extend the railway system. I hope that electrification of the railway system will be the order of the day.

I have also been asked to raise another question concerning the Minister for Railways. I ask: Why does a cup of tea cost 50c on the *Indian Pacific*?

Mr O'Neill: It must be good tea!

Mr T. H. JONES: Surely it is not reasonable to have to pay 50c for a cup of tea. Another charge which I consider to be unreasonable—and no doubt other people have the same thought—is that of 40c for a can of beer on the train. Why is it necessary to charge these excessive prices? Most people who travel on the train enjoy a drink while travelling to the Eastern States but a charge of 40c seems to be extravagant. The charges are far too high.

Mr Clarko: What is the price on the Commonwealth Railways?

Mr T. H. JONES: The same.

Mr Clarko: What is the reason?

Mr T. H. JONES: The honourable member can use his gold pass and go for a trip on the train. It is a lovely run to Kalgoorlie and once he has got to Midland he can buy a can for himself.

Mr Sibson: The prices are probably set in Canberra.

Mr T. H. JONES: Canberra does not run the Kalgoorlie to Perth section of the railway.

Mr Rushton: It would like to.

Mr T. H. JONES: The honourable member knows which Government is responsible for the Perth-Kalgoorlie section.

The SPEAKER: The member has five minutes.

Mr T. H. JONES: Is that all? My last point concerns Aborigines. I am very concerned about the policy of assimilation for Aborigines in Western Australia. I consider we have not yet found the answer to the question. Some very good Aboriginal families live in my area, as would probably be the case in the electorates of other members in the Chamber. However, we have the unfortunate position whereby some Aboriginal families do not want to be assimilated and they would far rather live in another environment.

We have the homemaker service, and other services, doing an excellent job, but in some cases it would not matter if the homemaker lived with the Aborigines because they do not want our way of life. I ask: Is it fair to force this kind of life onto those people?

I noted that those who are responsible for the policy which is applied thought it would be the answer but I can honestly say that in the electorate I represent there are a number of instances of Aboriginal families who do not want our way of life.

My view is that we have to look into the question of assimilation before the Aborigines are put into the various types of accommodation. I do not suggest that they should return to the reserves because that way of life does not suit them either. We have to create a way of life in certain areas so that we can assist these people. Homemakers could go to such areas and help the Aborigines until they are ready to come out and be assimilated. They should want to live that type of life.

I think most members will agree that a number of Aboriginal families are living in State Housing Commission homes against their will. Why force them? At some stage we will have to have an examination of this problem.

In conclusion, I want to say that we have happy days in the coalmining industry. I will not be referring to "Old King Coal" for a while, unless the Government runs off the rails again. In that

event I will be here trying to get it back onto the rails, as I have been trying to do for the past nine years.

At long last Collie is an exciting town. We have a bright future and I thank the Tonkin Government for implementing the policies which brought this about.

MR SIBSON (Bunbury) [10.20 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion before the Chair. This is the second occasion I have been elected to this House in a period of just over 12 months, and on this occasion I return, in all my glory, with my 48 vote majority and for that I am very grateful.

Mr. T. J. Burke: Your 48 votes are better than 12.

Mr Clarko: Twelve votes are better than none.

Mr SIBSON: I believe I am the last speaker to the Address-in-Reply and I would like to say, Mr Speaker, on behalf of myself and the people of Bunbury, how pleased we are that you have been elevated to the position you now hold. Many people in my electorate have voiced their opinions—having watched you over many years—and said how pleased they were at your election. They indicated they were certain you would bring dignity to the position you hold, which you have already proved.

I would again thank the staff of Parliament House for the way in which they have co-operated with me, and with other members, and for the wonderful job they do in assisting us in the work associated with Parliament.

I would like to record my appreciation to the electors of Bunbury for the way in which they supported me. I have found my electorate to be possibly one of the most evenly balanced in the State and it seems that once the election is over everyone closes ranks and supports the member elected. For this I thank the electors.

In passing, I would like to refer to Bob Wells and his wife, Madge. Bob Wells was my opponent at the last election and I thank him for a very clean election campaign.

Mr Taylor: Congratulations.

Mr SIBSON: I would like to say a little about the America's Cup. Western Australia could well win this coveted trophy this year, and we congratulate Alan Bond and his team for the time, effort, energy, and money put into the challenge. We, in Bunbury, have a particular interest because Mr Newton Roberts is one of our well-known residents.

Mr Clarko: Particularly when he won the lottery.

Mr SIBSON: Mr Roberts is a member of the sailing team, and he was also fortunate enough to win a lottery worth

\$35 000. Perhaps my reason for commenting is that he might consider me when he comes back! I think we all agree that the America's Cup, whether we win, lose, or draw, will put Western Australia on the world scene again in a similar fashion to our "City of Lights" a few years ago.

I would now like to talk about the town of Bunbury which has existed for many years, having been founded during the 18th Century. Bunbury has produced some very fine people.

Mr Bryce: Yes, some very fine people.

Mr SIBSON: Some of them seem to have a little problem on top!

Mr Bryce: John Forrest, amongst others.

Mr SIBSON: Bunbury is the centre of a very great region and we have heard something tonight concerning the areas surrounding that region. Bunbury is involved in various commercial and industrial activities. Our town centres around the port and port activities. The port provides much work within the town, and it attracts work from outside the town by way of exports. As I have said, the town revolves very much around the port; the port has been the means of making Bunbury successful and has allowed development over a wide area surrounding the town.

Mr Coyne: Bunbury has a mighty fine golf course, too.

Mr SIBSON: The commercial section of Bunbury is quite unique in that we have many small businesses. They are owned mainly by owner-operators who employ small staffs. In this way the unique situation has arisen whereby the employer-employee relationship is very good. That is one of the reasons we rarely have any industrial strife.

Bunbury has a very large Public Service for a town of its size but we have to take into consideration that the Public Service caters for many of the surrounding towns. In fact, in some cases it services the whole of the region. Over the years a strong work force has been built up in the Public Service.

I would like to mention the many voluntary and sporting organisations which exist in Bunbury. The town council has taken out a list of those organisations and they number in excess of 400. They play a valuable part in the work done throughout the township. The voluntary organisations do a good job in the community and they contribute much by raising money and by producing creative ideas. The sporting organisations accommodate the young people and keep them occupied during their many hours of leisure.

Bunbury goes back a long way into history and for the benefit of those who do not know much about it I have with me a

few pages from *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* which was printed in 1912. An article about Bunbury reads as follows—

The city of Bunbury, which takes its name from Lieutenant Bunbury of H.M.S. "Beagle," and not from the family which settled there in the early days, is picturesquely situated on the shores of Koombana Bay, 115 miles by rail south of Perth, and is destined from its position, designed by Nature and improved by art, to become the commercial metropolis of the great southwest.

What we believe about Bunbury today was apparently believed about it in the very early days. Another interesting point in the article reads as follows—

The Collie and the Preston Rivers, with their many tributaries, help to swell the waters of the Estuary, whose surface is dotted with wild fowl and whose depths are filled with fish—a veritable paradise for the sportsman.

We know that is not quite so true today. However, every effort is being made, through conservation committees and other bodies, to make sure this valuable asset is maintained for use by people interested in sport. Another interesting item in the article reads—

Historically Bunbury looms large in the annals of Western Australia. Though the honour strictly belongs to Picton, a small village some three or four miles away, Bunbury is generally known as the birthplace of Sir John Forrest, Western Australia's greatest son.

The member for Vasse will not like the next comment. It is—

As a summer resort Bunbury probably holds pride of place in the estimation of the people of this State. For this its natural advantages are largely responsible.

However, I will add a little to that comment: I believe that other towns such as Mandurah and those in Vasse now have a good tourist potential.

Mr T. J. Burke: And Rockingham.

Mr SIBSON: That is a little out of the territory. The towns to which I have referred have grown and have a large tourist potential, and they help to bring wealth to the south-west coast of Australia. To continue the article—

Commercially Bunbury must of necessity have a prosperous outlook.

We must bear in mind that we are talking about the fairly early days. To continue—

It is the natural port of shipment for the produce of this portion of the State. The coal output from the Collie fields, the produce of the rich Bridgetown district, and the timber gathered

from the various mills in the back country, all gravitate naturally to Bunbury for export.

Of course, over the years this has proven to be so. All the produce that has an export potential eventually gravitates to the town.

Here is a very interesting piece and it concerns what is actually happening in Bunbury today. It proves how long ago the original thinking and planning took place. It says—

So great has been the development, however, that the question of further facilities has been for some time under consideration, and soundings have been taken with a view of ascertaining the possibility of cutting a canal through Point Casuarina, and thus providing an inner harbour in the Estuary capable of accommodating an increased shipping trade.

Today we have that inland harbour—the first stage is just about finished.

I would like to inform the House about a few of the people who have left their mark very solidly on the town and electorate. Again, in *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, we find these comments—

Thomas Hayward, who represented the Wellington district in the Legislative Assembly from 1903 to 1911, is a son of the late Mr. Thomas Hayward, of Ringshall, Suffolk, England. . . . In 1862 he opened a small store at Bunbury for the retailing of ironmongery and farming implements, and in the course of time built up a large connection, with the result that the business is now the largest of its kind in the south-western district.

It must be remembered we are talking of the period prior to 1912. That business has grown today to the extent that recently it has been completely rebuilt and restocked to the tune of \$4 million for Boans Limited. So the business built up by Thomas Hayward all those years ago still leaves its mark on the town.

Another well-known family in the town is the Roberts family. I referred to Mr Newton Roberts a short time ago, and I presume he is either the grandson or great-grandson of Frederick William Roberts, who is referred to as follows—

Frederick William Roberts, partner in the firm of Thomas Hayward & Son,—

In fact, members of the family still hold shares in the firm. To continue—

Mr. Roberts has taken some part in public affairs, and was one of the original members chosen by the Government to form the Bunbury Harbour Board,—

The Roberts family is still connected with the Bunbury Harbour Board. Mr Fred Roberts, the brother of Newton Roberts,

and also of the late George Roberts—the member for Bunbury for some years—is now Chairman of the Bunbury Port Authority.

An old firm in Bunbury which is still going today is Beigel's Brewery, which was started by Edgar Herbert Zollner. This company no longer operates as a brewery but it is now a liquor bond outlet for the south-west and still operates under the name of Beigel's Brewery. This is another family which contributed to the well-being of the town and electorate in which I live.

Another man of history who left his mark on the town was the first mayor. The *Cyclopaedia* states—

Augustus Frederick Spencer, shipping and coaling agent, Bunbury, is a son of the late Hon. William Spencer, M.L.C., . . . He took a very active part in the early development of the district and occupied a seat on the Council Trust before Bunbury was gazetted a mayoralty, subsequently being elected to the mayoral chair on five different occasions.

Frederick Oscar Benckendorff, shipping, forwarding, coaling, and insurance agent, Bunbury, . . . at one period he held a seat in the Bunbury Town Council, whilst at present he occupies the position of chairman of the Bunbury Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the South-Western and Commercial Clubs.

Mr Benckendorff spent a great deal of his life working for the many organisations in the town and district.

I feel I should mention a man whose family name is well known in Bunbury—Walter Jack Buswell. We are given the following information about him—

Walter Jack Buswell, contractor and brickmaker, . . . His works, situated at Glen Iris, are the scene of busy industry. The plant is capable of producing 40,000 bricks per week.

In those days, that would have been a great many bricks.

The last man I wish to mention was connected with an industry very dear to the south-west—butter-making. The comment here is very interesting. It says—

Owen Hinkley, manager of the Bunbury Butter Company, Limited, . . . This enterprise was inaugurated by dairy farmers and residents of the south-west district and is conducted on co-operative lines, similar to those which have proved so successful in the Eastern States. . . . the output of butter from the factory rising from 23 tons 12 cwt. during the first year to 50 tons 17 cwt. for the year closing in 1911, while the number of farmers to avail themselves of this market for their dairy products has increased from 77 to 160.

I do not have here the figures in relation to the dairying industry today, but I am sure members will agree with me that the increase in primary production over the years has been phenomenal.

Having spoken about Bunbury and told members a little of its history, I would like to mention some of the surrounding shires that support the town. I say at the outset that, whilst Bunbury is a growing and thriving town generating a great deal of activity within itself, it is very dependent on the surrounding shires, and we are very grateful for the support of the people living in them.

Some years ago a survey was undertaken and it was found that the retail input to the town was roughly 50 per cent from within Bunbury itself and 50 per cent from the surrounding region. So this proves that the local shires are very important to our town.

The Capel Shire is one of the closest to Bunbury. There is a fairly strong rural activity—dairy and beef production amongst other things—in this shire. A milk manufacturing plant at Capel draws in milk from the southern areas and it is the home of the black sands. Up to date this area has produced nearly seven million tons of mineral sands. The company commenced in 1956 with a staff of six, and in 1973 it was employing 337 people in the industry. We must remember that each employee has a family, so that this industry is important not only to Capel but also to Bunbury. Some of the workers live in Bunbury and Busselton, and other people are employed in supporting industries. It is indeed a very necessary industry for our area, and it is gratefully accepted.

Busselton is one of the very popular tourist towns. It is set in a very strong rural region, but as well as this, its commercial areas are growing every day, and they play a great part in servicing the area.

Traditionally the timber industry has played a strong part in the activities of this shire. It continues to do so, but the outstanding feature at Busselton is tourism. I believe it is fair to say that Busselton ranks as one of the best tourist resorts in our State today. We are grateful to the tourists who come to the town, but we must not forget the work done by the shire and the people who live in the town to encourage visitors to the area.

The next in line, going towards the bottom of the State, is the Augusta-Margaret River Shire. I spent the first 21 years of my life there, and I know quite a lot about the area.

The main industries in this shire are dairying and timber, although for many years it has been known as the Cinderella part of the State as far as the dairying industry is concerned. However, after

many struggles, it has forged through and the dairying and cattle-raising properties are fairly well established. The timber industry today is not as significant as it was. At one time when timber was booming over 2 000 people were domiciled at Karridale.

At Cowaramup, my home town, a wine industry is being established. People from all over the world have studied this area, and they say it has the potential to become one of the best wine-growing areas in the State. This is another area which contributes very much to the affluence of Bunbury because many people come to Bunbury and spend their money.

The town of Nannup is rather small, but it has a good rural background. Of course, it is a well-known timber town, not only in the milling of jarrah, but also in the planting and growing of pines. Nannup could be considered to be the centre of the pine-growing industry.

Let us move across to the Shire of Manjimup—another very important shire as far as Bunbury is concerned. It is becoming more and more important every day because of the plans for the area.

The Shire of Manjimup contributes to the wellbeing of the whole area, and I have always had a reasonably close association with this shire. The main activity is with timber, but it also has a strong rural background. Forestry is a very strong feature of the Manjimup district, and with the advent of the wood chipping industry, this region will be in much closer contact with our town at Bunbury. We look forward to a close association in the export of wood chips.

Coming back up the line, people in the Bridgetown-Greenbushes area rely on fruitgrowing, farming and tin mining. We then come to the Donnybrook—Balingup Shire with a strong rural background. Of course, this is the home of the famous Granny Smith apple—renowned throughout the world for the ease with which it is accepted on the markets.

Boyup Brook is a strong rural area, and it contributes a great deal to the economy of the district; every day many people from this shire can be seen in our town. It is the home of the blue wool—a very fine quality wool.

Across to the west coast again we come to the Shire of Harvey. This is fairly close to Bunbury and it incorporates the town of Australind, a fast-growing urban area. Harvey is famous for its irrigation system. Before the days of irrigation the farming community battled to exist, but since the 1930s and the coming of the irrigation system, the town has established itself as the head of the milk-producing areas of Western Australia.

I come now to the last shire which greatly concerns Bunbury. I am sorry that the member for Collie is not in the Chamber, because I should like to say a

few things about the Shire of Collie. During the time I lived in Collie—some six or seven years—I became associated closely with the town and had a lot to do with it in the areas in which I was involved and I always found the Collie people to be friendly and co-operative; the sort of people one did not mind living amongst. It has a rural background but as the member for Collie just mentioned, its strength is in its ability to produce coal. I should like to make reference to Collie and to what the member for Collie said the other night when he was speaking in this House.

The member for Collie said—

The member for Bunbury knows very well that he was responsible for stop-work meetings with the transport association that was attempting to have coverage on the coalmining industry.

That does not make sense but it does mean something and its meaning is quite strange to me. I cannot remember the incident, but possibly the member for Collie will explain it more fully later. I commenced work at the Stockton open cut mine which was producing coal from the old workings. We were cutting out the pillars and I have in my hand the pay slips I received during my period of employment. The interesting one is dated the 24th October, 1952, which means at that time I had been working for Amalgamated Collieries for three weeks. The district seniority list put out by the Collie Miners' Union indicates that I was registered as a member of that union on the 1st October, 1952, which was over three weeks before I collected by first pay. The situation which applied then was that one paid one's first stump, as it was called, on the first pay period after commencement of work and therefore it does seem quite peculiar that I would have been running around doing such things as supporting stoppages with the Road Transport Association when I was a member of the Collie Miners' Union.

I enjoyed the period I spent in Collie as a member of that union. I later went to the Muja open cut which, of course, is the mine which produces an enormous amount of coal today. I was there in the early pioneering days of the Hebe deep mine, a picture of which hangs in the corridors of this House. We worked a seam of coal to a depth of some 39 feet to 40 feet by open cut method, which was quite a unique seam of coal. During the period I spent in Collie I became interested in union affairs. I felt that if I worked in the industry, I had to be a member of the union and, so, I was determined to become interested in all the functions of the union. I attended as many meetings as I could and took part in the debates. At one time I stood for the position of vice-president of the union. The ballot was held on the 2nd and 3rd February 1956 by the Collie Mine Workers Industrial

Union. I did not win that election but it was quite interesting when one considers that I was accepted as a nominee despite the fact that I was a known Liberal. I always admitted I was a Liberal and at the time there was a great deal of consternation about the fact. It was the first time I contested an election of any sort other than, perhaps, for committees and that sort of thing. I still have the figures relating to that ballot.

Four of us were involved in the ballot. There was a man named Hughes, who did not go very well at all. He went out when the first preferences were counted. I make the point here that it was preferential voting. Another candidate was Jacky Watkins who today is one of the most outstanding men on the coalfields. The third candidate was Mr Watts and I was the fourth nomination for the position. Mr Watkins won easily, with 341 votes, Mr Watts was second with 180 votes and I received 151 votes. I have done some calculations on this ballot. I notice that Mr Watts received 53 per cent of the votes cast at his home mine. I received an average of 83 per cent of the votes from the Muja open cut and Hebe deep mine. However, the total number of votes from those two mines was only 52 whereas 113 votes were recorded at Mr Watts' home mine. Thus, had the number of workers at the Muja and Hebe mines been enough to cast the same number of votes, I would have headed Mr Watts by five votes. For that reason I consider I suffered some disadvantage at that ballot.

Mr Skidmore: Had you won, we may have had a different member for Bunbury.

Mr SIBSON: That is right. I have recounted that story as an example of the interest I took in the industry. Some comments made in this House were incorrect and I thought I should set the record straight. We heard the member for Collie slating the Liberal Government for the way in which it handled Collie and its problems and the dreadful things it had done to Collie. I have a high respect for the member for Collie.

Mr Skidmore: He complained only in so far as the State Electricity Commission was concerned.

Mr SIBSON: Over the years, I have noticed that the member for Collie has developed a habit of criticising without putting up any facts to support his criticisms. I have many documents in my possession; I have a box full of them here.

Mr T. J. Burke: Will you table them?

Mr SIBSON: I will if I am asked. I started collecting these documents 25 years ago. My wife has been determined to get them out of the house and taken to the rubbish tip. However, I still have them. They started off on top of the bedroom wardrobe, moved to the laundry, then to

the back verandah, and finally out to the shed. My wife still wants to get rid of them.

Mr B. T. Burke: But you should not let her do it. You keep them.

Mr T. J. Burke: Call it a library and get a tax concession.

Mr SIBSON: I have such things as agricultural society schedules from Margaret River and literature concerning junior farmers. I have a pay slip for the period when I was carting overburden at Muja and a hire-purchase agreement.

Mr Jamieson: I don't suppose you have a pair of red flannel drawers have you?

Mr SIBSON: I am just pointing out the importance of keeping a few of the old things one collects from early in one's life.

Mr T. J. Burke: Channel 7 has a show on Friday week; perhaps you could appear on television with your little box.

Mr SIBSON: Perhaps I will receive an invitation to go along.

Mr Jamieson: I hear the Premier mumbling to himself.

Mr SIBSON: I have a document from the Housing Commission and papers which relate to the period when I worked at the Muja open cut.

Mr Skidmore: That proves you were there, anyway.

Mr SIBSON: Yes, and that I got paid for being there.

Mr T. H. Jones: You changed your politics when you left Collie.

Mr SIBSON: Oh, the member for Collie is here. Did they go and get him?

Mr T. H. Jones: Were you active in the Liberal Party in Collie?

Mr SIBSON: Yes.

Mr T. H. Jones: I never saw you handing out cards.

Mr SIBSON: Before the election Mr Latter used that fact as propaganda to suggest that as I was a member of the Liberal Party the people could be voting for someone who had infiltrated the Collie Miners' Union.

Mr T. H. Jones: Did you go out and hand out how-to-vote cards at election time? I never saw you.

Mr SIBSON: No, I did not.

Mr T. H. Jones: Then you were not a very good Liberal; you were not very active in the party.

Mr SIBSON: Yes, I was very active.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bunbury has the floor.

Mr SIBSON: I have another document in this little box. It was a bit dusty when I pulled it out. It is a report from the then Minister for Mines, the Hon. Lionel Kelly.

Mr T. H. Jones: And a good Minister, too.

Mr SIBSON: Several people made representations to the Minister and are listed on this sheet of paper. The first three sheets have disappeared somewhere along the line and I do not know what date was on the submission.

Mr Jamieson: Three sheets in the wind!

Mr SIBSON: I am not too sure of the date of the document, but the member for Collie would be able to assist me because it was immediately after Mr Bill Wallwork retired.

The SPEAKER: The member has five more minutes.

Mr SIBSON: So, we can check the actual date of the document. It was interesting to hear the criticism levelled at the Liberal Party by the member for Collie—

Mr T. H. Jones: And fair criticism, too.

Mr SIBSON: —in his speech and by interjection and it also is interesting to hear what certain members of the Collie Miners' Union had to say about the Labor Party.

Mr T. H. Jones: Who were they?

Mr SIBSON: I will quote their names. Mr George Lovell said that he objected to the way they had meetings with the present Labor Government. Under a Liberal Government it was realised that at meetings between the miners and the Minister, both parties involved should be present and it was also possible to get the truth of the matter.

Mr T. H. Jones: What date is that?

Mr SIBSON: As I said, I cannot answer that question but it could easily be checked by ascertaining when Mr Wallwork retired. It does not really matter whether it was one year or another.

Mr T. H. Jones: It could be 1892 for all we know.

Mr SIBSON: It was not, because Mr Lovell would not have been there then.

Mr T. H. Jones: Are you going to table it?

Mr SIBSON: Yes, I will table it. I would like to read this out because it is interesting. It reads, referring to the Labor Government—

Since the present government has been in, only once have the companies been present at a conference between us and the Minister.

Mr T. H. Jones: What was the conference about?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SIBSON: To continue—

On occasions when we have been to Perth for a conference the companies have seen the Minister before we went in.

Mr Jack Watkins, who was probably the most outstanding man in the industry, said—

As far as the Stockton is concerned, we had a conference with Mr Wallwork about the quota of men on the coal. He said that he had no power to give us an answer—

Mr T. H. Jones: That is right.

Mr SIBSON: To continue—

—but that he would refer all the facts direct to the Minister. We presume he referred the matter to you Mr Kelly but up to now we have not had an answer.

I support Mr Shannon when he said that we had plenty of support from the McLarty/Simpson team. I cannot say the same thing about this Government. Mr Simpson always kept his promises.

Mr Harry Squance, who was then the district treasurer, said—

When Mr Simpson was in office he came down to Collie to meet the Miners Union. He always brought the company officials down with him. Mr Kelly said, on taking office, that he was going to continue this system. It has not come about however, if the Miners Union wants anything now it is necessary to run down to Perth. Then the company representatives are not present. Personally I think there should be company representatives present.

Mr T. H. Jones: I was secretary then. In 1955 I was secretary. What about quoting me?

Mr SIBSON: I am trying to find it.

Mr T. H. Jones: You have probably lost it.

Mr SIBSON: I will keep looking. Mr Latter was the president at the time.

Mr T. H. Jones: I was secretary, too. What about quoting me?

Mr SIBSON: I will find it in a minute. I am having a little trouble locating it. In the meantime I would like members to hear what the president said. Mr Latter was a most outstanding man for many reasons, and he said—

The mine workers here in Collie expected more from the Labor Government than they did from the Liberals. This was to be expected for the Miners Union gave financial support to the Labor Party for a number of years. In fact the union helped to put the Government into power.

On this page is reference to Mr Wallwork's resignation.

Mr T. H. Jones: You have not quoted me. That is what I want to hear.

Mr SIBSON: The member for Collie is impatient.

Mr T. H. Jones: You do not have much time left. I want to make sure we hear what I said.

Mr SIBSON: Here it is on the front page! It is what Mr Tom Jones, the then secretary said.

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

Adjournment of Debate

Mr T. J. BURKE: I could not possibly follow that, so I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Question put and passed.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [11.03 p.m.]: I presume the honourable member has made his speech, in view of the ruling given previously! I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.04 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 15th August, 1974

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (37): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION POLICIES

Reference to Educationists

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

(1) Further to my questions (1 of 6th August, 1974 and 49 of 13th August, 1974), would he please indicate if the Liberal Party education policies enunciated at the hustings were referred to any professional educationists (being persons not referred to in the above questions) prior to being publicly announced by him?

(2) If "Yes" would he name the people concerned?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) and (2) As the Member knows, the committee had a number of professional educationists in different fields as members.

At the same time, it purposely also had members who were not professional educationists, but who had other qualifications and practical experience.