

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 10th May, 1979

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## STATE FINANCE: INCOME TAX

### *State: Petition*

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [2.16 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I have a petition to present which is couched in the same terms in respect of double income tax as the petition which was presented to this House previously. The petition contains the names of 29 petitioners. I certify that the petition is in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*See petition No. 68*

## WUNDOWIE CHARCOAL IRON INDUSTRY SALE AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 9th May.

MR McIVER (Avon) [2.18 p.m.]: The Bill before us contains four main provisions to amend the Wundowie charcoal iron industry sale agreement. Firstly, it provides for the creation of a mineral lease under the agreement covering the Coates vanadium ore bodies; secondly, it requires the company to recommence and maintain pig iron production from two furnaces for the 12 months to the 30th June, 1980; thirdly, it continues provisions for pay-roll tax reimbursements to the 30th June, 1980; and, fourthly, it replaces previous freight subsidy provisions with a single subsidy of \$2 per tonne for the period from the 1st November, 1978, to the 30th June, 1980.

This measure is most welcome not only to the workers in the Wundowie industry, but also to all the people in the community there, because it will provide stability to the economy of the area and to the industry. The company must be commended for what it has achieved during the last couple of years, considering the losses it has sustained since it took over the Wundowie charcoal iron and steel plant from the Government. These losses in the main have been brought about by a downturn in the demand for pig iron throughout the world. As I said, this amendment to the agreement will be a boon not

only to the workers employed in the industry but also to the community as a whole. It is also most heartening for the company.

In respect of mineral leases it is worthy of note that the provisions have been cleared by the Environmental Protection Authority at both State and Federal levels. I know this was a matter of concern for a long time, because mining operations, irrespective of where they may be, always raise the question of environmental protection.

The introduction of a second furnace also will be a boon to the industry because it will require the employment of a further 27 personnel, at a time of high unemployment in the area. This will be most welcome, and it is heartening to see that the people of Wundowie—particularly young single people—who suffered a great setback when the timber operation closed will now have an opportunity of employment. The opening of the second furnace will provide a further avenue for young people living nearby to enter the industry. It will also provide opportunities for advancement to people who have been working in this very important decentralised industry for a long time.

I wish also to mention the operations of the Wundowie foundry. It is not the first occasion I have put in a commercial for this foundry. Recently it was given a seven-year contract by Hamersley Iron to forge and manufacture rail shoulders to enable the company to upgrade its rail facilities. This gives some indication of how popular the foundry's product is. In fact, the foundry operation has been the mainstay of the whole industry at Wundowie for quite some time. This must be recognised, as I am sure the Minister does, with his knowledge of the situation. The foundry's success has been against the trend; it has continued to be successful at a time when foundries throughout Western Australia and Australia have been closing down. That the foundry has been able to negotiate a seven-year contract with Hamersley Iron clearly indicates the high regard in which its products are held. It sells products not only to Hamersley Iron but also to the Commonwealth Railways in the Eastern States, and to various other industries.

Mr Speaker, you will gather from my comments that the Opposition does not intend to oppose the measure before the House. My colleagues join with me in wishing the company every success. We hope and trust the markets for pig iron continue to flourish and that the company is able to utilise the stockpiles of pig iron not only at Wundowie but also in America and other parts of the world. It has carried a loss of thousands of

dollars over a long period, and we hope that now the tide is turning.

The Opposition also wishes the company success in its \$11 million vanadium enterprise; preparation for this very important mining and production industry already is underway at Wundowie, which will be the central point of production.

On behalf of the Opposition, I wish the company every success in the future, and support the Bill.

**MR MENSAROS** (Floreat—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.26 p.m.]: I not only thank the spokesman for the Opposition (the member for Avon) for his support of the Bill but also welcome his support which, on reflection, is quite significant. I shudder to think what would happen if this industry were to be established today, starting from scratch. We would have people claiming the fauna and flora of the area would be destroyed, the industry would cause air pollution and make inroads into our forests, that it would destroy the recreation possibilities of an area so near to Perth and would harm Perth's water supplies, and a whole host of other things. Fortunately, however, the industry already is established and these questions do not arise.

It is a healthy industry depending, of course, like everything else, on economic circumstances and the world market to which the company primarily gears its production.

**Mr Davies:** I do not think the industry can dodge the environmental factors.

**Mr MENSAROS:** No, but I think the Leader of the Opposition will agree with me that if the industry were to be established today, a different set of circumstances would apply. I make that point only because the member for Avon rightly mentioned no environmental objections have been expressed to the vanadium project.

I also would like to emphasise that the Government's support and assistance to the industry is not in the nature of a rescue operation, to resurrect something which is dead and, in effect, to give it an artificial life. The fact is that because of bad overseas conditions the company was losing money and obviously was on the verge of considering closing down. In the judgment of the company and the Government, the indications are that the market is improving slowly. We believe if we can apply a larger scale of economics to the operation by restarting the second furnace, we will make production less expensive, with overheads being spread over a greater area of production; this justifies the Government's

decision to inject financial assistance into the company's operations.

That is the reason these advantages will expire in about a year's time. We hope by then the company will be in a healthy economic position, taking advantage of a hopefully improved world market situation and that once it is on its feet it will be able to proceed after this Government assistance has expired.

Neither do I think the pay-roll tax subsidy provided to the company has been a straightout loss to the Treasury; one must consider the extreme case that if the company were forced to close down, there would be a larger loss to the Treasury because wages would not be paid and, therefore, would not attract pay-roll tax.

The railway subsidy is a straightout subsidy. The Treasury funds it from a commercially negotiated freight rate. Of course, the company has to freight the iron ore by rail for a considerable distance. Therefore, considering all that we said, it appears to be fairly equitable. I am glad that the Opposition holds the same view.

With those few comments, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading*

**MR MENSAROS** (Floreat—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.33 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

In moving that the Bill be now read a third time, I would like to correct an omission which I have made. I want to thank the Opposition for its support and co-operation in enabling us to debate this Bill early in today's sitting, which will in turn enable the other place to deal with it, so we can have the Bill placed on the Statute book.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

### **IRON ORE (MOUNT NEWMAN) AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 9th May.

**MR BRYCE** (Ascot—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.34 p.m.]: The Opposition supports the concept of the normalisation of the company mining towns in the Pilbara. This Bill is an amendment to the basic parent agreement with the Mount Newman Mining Company.

The amendment seeks basically to do two things: firstly, to approve a home ownership scheme which the Mount Newman Mining Company has designed, to enable such a scheme to function legally and effectively; and secondly, associated with that move, is the desire of the company and the Government to have the Pilbara mining towns that were established as closed company towns normalised in the sense that the responsibility for the provision of essential services and amenities, and the maintenance of the facilities which already exist, will be handed over to the local governing authorities. In many senses of the word, the towns will become normal towns.

In expressing our support for the concept, I want to indicate that it is a pity that, although the Government has had the opportunity to negotiate with the companies and the communities for more than 12 months in developing this concept, we in this place have had only a short time to consider not just the implications of this Bill but also the fairly serious implications for a number of north-west mining towns. Presumably what happens in this particular instance will no doubt be seen as a precedent for the other inland mining towns where normalisation is to proceed.

I indicate that we on this side, and I particularly, would have appreciated a little more time to consult with some of the community groups and, in particular, the local authorities to ascertain how they feel. It is my impression that both of the local governing authorities involved in this case—the East Pilbara Shire and the Port Hedland Shire—welcome the introduction of what they describe as normalisation legislation.

The authorities are aware that in the wake of the passing of this legislation, certain difficulties will be experienced. One of the difficulties faced by the small inland shires such as the East Pilbara Shire is the existence of financial difficulties. Almost every local governing authority in the north of the State is experiencing financial problems. The net effect of this process will be to hand the provision of additional facilities and amenities to a local body. Those facilities have hitherto been provided by fairly wealthy mining companies.

One of the very real concerns that some of the local shires have is based on the appreciation that

the quality of the facilities and the amenities which have been provided for people in the mining areas of the Pilbara has been significantly higher than the facilities which can be provided by local governing authorities. This is similar to the situation the State has found itself in with regard to the provision of housing in that part of the State. It has been understood for a long time that the State Government does not have the capacity to provide the same quality of housing as the companies, particularly with regard to air-conditioning.

I understand that the concern is that when the established facilities are handed over to the shires, they will have to find the financial resources to maintain the facilities at their present high standard. It will not be particularly easy for some authorities to manage that because finances are not easy for anybody, whether it be a small business or a small unit of government. That is certainly a description which is most apt and fitting for the local governing authorities in the Pilbara.

One of the other interesting and specific difficulties about which the East Pilbara Shire is concerned is the end effect of its being able to provide the appropriate salaries for the extra staff that have to be employed. The shire will find itself having to compete with the salary structure provided by the company and in this regard the shire will be faced with some difficulties. Those of us associated with vast local governing authorities in the metropolitan area tend to underestimate the effect of the addition of two or three extra salaries on small local authorities.

It is our understanding that, basically, the local governing authorities of East Pilbara and Port Hedland are keen to see the process of normalisation proceed. They are keen to end the degree of instability that tends to be associated with the very high turnover in the work force of communities in mining towns. They have a fairly well based hope that if people are encouraged to purchase their homes in many of these places they will be a little more inclined to remain more permanently in those centres. This would have a very beneficial effect on the community.

It appears that the provisions being made by the Mount Newman Mining Company to enable the residents of these towns and the actual occupants of the homes to purchase them over a 25-year period with an interest rate of 3 per cent—they will not need to have actually worked for the company for more than three years to be entitled to this—is indeed a very generous offer. It is an offer which will be very popular with the people who decide to take advantage of it.

I think I am speaking on behalf of all members of Parliament when I say we want to see the north developed and see the communities grow. All Governments, not just this Government, would be keen to see people settled in the north. I think it follows automatically that Governments which have these sentiments need to be prepared to find the resources, in terms of providing facilities, to back up these sentiments. We cannot expect individuals who live in the north and provide the work force for this very vital industry to have to foot the bill and pay the entire price themselves. As far as the individual families are concerned, the value of the taxation allowance to people living in the north has been seriously eroded.

We are all aware of the controversy that surrounds the high food prices, air fares, fuel costs, and transport costs. These small economic matters that confront each and every individual family in the north are offset by just a tiny handful of advantages accruing to people living in the region.

There is no suggestion that wage structures in the Pilbara are so attractive that people want to go there to earn fantastic wages. Those who have studied the situation realise the principal advantage to the individual who works in the north is the opportunity to work long hours. Basically, the rates of pay are nothing to boast about in terms of differences in working conditions.

One of the few other sources of benefit to the individual, and particularly the family man living in this part of the State, are the benefits which accrue to his family on a weekly basis in terms of subsidised rent, electricity costs, water costs, and local government charges. These are benefits families in the metropolitan or country areas would not normally enjoy.

I think we would be taking a step in the wrong direction if, collectively as legislators, we made a decision designed either in the short or long term to deprive the people living in these towns of these very small advantages they now have; it is tough enough to endure the heat and the particular working conditions in this industry. As I have said, it seems the basic incentive for people to go and live in these places hinges on the opportunity to work long hours and make reasonable incomes. I emphasise that it is not because of a particularly attractive rate of pay.

On the other hand, the benefits that can flow to these people if they are living in company houses—which are of a very high standard and designed in precisely that way to attract the necessary work force—should not be taken away.

It would be a step in the wrong direction if at any future time moves were made in association with this current amendment or by an independent action in an effort to deprive the people who comprise the work force in these towns of the advantages currently they have in the form of subsidised housing, electricity, and water. The people rely on these subsidies as a real incentive for going to these places. I have no doubt such a move would not be dealt with as a result of this Bill, but it would be subject to fairly hard bargaining on an industrial basis later on.

We certainly support the concept of the normalisation of these towns and we believe it is a step in the right direction. It is inevitable there will be some differences of opinion about the detail of the scheme as it is translated into reality; but we on this side of the House accept the responsibility that we should try to encourage people to live in the north. We believe Governments will have to accept their share of responsibility for making it possible for people to live in those areas.

As these company towns are handed over to local governing authorities in those places, it will be a particularly bad day for Western Australia and certainly the north of the State if it means in practice that the people who live there are going to have to face very steep increases in local government rates in order to maintain their standard of living and the standard of the facilities already established. On that basis we support the amendment and the concept of normalisation.

**MR SODEMAN (Pilbara)** [2.48 p.m.]: This is a very important Bill for the Pilbara, as was stated by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is probably one of the most important decisions to have been made in the Pilbara, apart from the iron ore development itself over the last decade.

People who have resided in company towns have for a long time felt somewhat suppressed by the fact that their social life, and their community and business activities to some extent have been restricted, although not purposely, by the companies which manage those towns. The companies themselves are in the business primarily of mining and shipping iron ore. That in itself, if successful, benefits the people the companies employ. The companies are not in the business of social welfare and housing or looking after the day-to-day needs of the people they employ. That is better done by the individuals themselves.

The point so adequately made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was that the shires will

be under considerable pressure. I have no doubt that the companies will adopt a responsible attitude in relation to any changeover which takes place and such changeover will result from slow responsible negotiation. The companies will not rush into it. They will not force the shires to undertake the takeover of facilities overnight. Hopefully some of the financial problems which will undoubtedly occur will be minimised during the negotiation period.

As we are all aware, the normalisation concept is virtually the result of the reports prepared by Mr Carley who was previously a commissioner in the Roebourne Shire area. During his time as commissioner, he did an excellent job and also he did a great deal of work on these two reports which encompassed the towns of Wickham and Newman and which no doubt will have an effect on the other mining towns.

The principles embraced in the Bill are based virtually on the recommendations contained in his reports and I think, all in all, we will see a far better social atmosphere and a more favourable situation for commerce and enterprise throughout the Pilbara because of it.

The home purchase scheme is a matter which the Government will watch with interest. The companies have been very generous, particularly Mount Newman Mining Company, which has structured such a scheme. That company sent out the proposal so that the residents and the unions, could have a look at it, evaluate it, and see whether or not they want to participate in it. I have had a look at the scheme and if I were living in one of the inland mining towns or, indeed, on the coast, I would find the proposal and offer by the company quite attractive.

Even though the turnover rate of employees has slowed considerably, it is hoped that this proposal will achieve a greater degree of permanency so that families will go to the north not for a one-year, two-year, or three-year period, but to make their permanent homes there.

Of course, home ownership right throughout Australia is one of the very basics of permanency. Once an individual builds his own home he has a responsibility in a particular town, and he tends to consolidate rather than move on as quickly as he did in the past. That is a very healthy concept in itself, and the Government wishes the company every success.

I hope the staff, the unions, and the employees give the system a go, because it has a great deal of merit.

Another important factor is that a great deal of cottage industry is carried out in the mining

towns. People operate from their backyards and out of their houses, because they are unable to obtain business premises. Of course, one of the problems has been where to establish these premises and how the company should go about making available land on a mining lease. This hurdle should be overcome as a result of this normalisation process, so that entrepreneurs who want to start a business in a town, whether it be Newman, Tom Price, or Dampier, can do so on a normal basis. Hopefully we will then see competition increasing in the towns with consolidation and permanency being the end result.

I have no doubt there will be some teething problems, as indicated by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The shires, the companies, and the State Government will have to work together rather closely and with a measure of understanding and fairness to ensure this transformation takes place on a proper and healthy basis. If any of the parties involved adopts a "bull at a gate" approach, of course it will not be successful.

As the member for Pilbara I want to give the undertaking to the four shires that they have the Government's backing and total support in their efforts towards achieving this very major and important breakthrough which will affect themselves and the communities in the Pilbara.

With those few remarks, I support the Bill and repeat that it is probably one of the most important and greatest breakthroughs the Pilbara has seen in the last decade.

**MR MENSAROS** (Floreat—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.55 p.m.]: I thank members on both sides of the House for their support of the Bill. As has been said, but I think it bears repetition, this Bill is tremendously important for the social development of mining towns in the vast area of the Pilbara. It is not, however, an end in itself. It is only the first small step on the road towards the normalisation of inland townships which have been developed by companies.

Members will be aware that at the time the development started all the infrastructure, particularly in the inland towns, but also in the port towns, was built and paid for by the companies. Of course, the ongoing expenses of maintaining the infrastructure and providing services for the community were met by the companies in the case of the inland mining towns.

It is a fact, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition acknowledged this, that the quality of the infrastructure in these towns is exceptionally

high. I might even go a step further and say that I have seen nothing in the world which compares with the quality of the infrastructure in these towns. I have had the opportunity to visit a number of mining towns which had to be created from nothing. In other words, I am referring to mining towns which were not based on existing townships which were then extended as a result of the increased economic activity generated by mining.

The quality of the infrastructure in the mining towns is the best in the world. This high quality was aimed at deliberately because of the distance of the towns from major population centres, and also as a result of what was considered at that time to be harsh climatic conditions. The companies not only wanted to secure a work force, but also they wanted a peaceful one which would co-operate and be happy to perform the assigned work to the mutual advantage of the companies and their employees, and also of course to the advantage of the whole community and ultimately the State.

I doubt very much whether any of the employees, regardless of their place in the hierarchy—whether they are semi-skilled, unskilled, or highly professional—would have had better accommodation in their normal abodes, whether they came from Perth, one of the other States on the eastern seaboard of Australia, or even from overseas. This becomes patently obvious if one visits these towns and is allocated one of the houses—not a special guesthouse—for an overnight stay. They have excellent facilities.

I am not laying blame on anyone, but it is a fact of life that despite the quality of the infrastructure and the nominal charges made for rental, electricity, and maintenance—I am referring to such matters as lawn mowing—the labour relations in the area have not lived up to the expectations held by the companies when they provided these high quality facilities. If we look at the statistics for the 1977-78 financial year—I believe that is the period to which they relate—it can be seen that 5 per cent of the total work force of Western Australia which is accommodated in the Pilbara was responsible for 72 per cent of the total working time lost within the State.

Psychologists and people involved in social sciences have made studies. They spend a great deal of time ascertaining the reason for this. I would be exaggerating if I said I know the reason, but it is a fact that despite the best endeavours and the facilities available—accommodation, sporting, cultural facilities, and so on—this occurred.

Again we are starting a new endeavour about which the companies have thought for a long time. I apologise to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who stated that the Bill has been before us for only a short time. This is a fact, because once we reached finality we wanted to give the company the opportunity to go ahead straightaway instead of waiting until the Budget session of Parliament. However, I correct the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who said that it has been 12 months since we negotiated. Negotiations have been in progress for years and years.

Mr Bryce: I may have said more than 12 months.

Mr MENSAROS: This matter has been under consideration ever since I have been a Minister. I can recall having lengthy discussions not only with company representatives, but also with various others including real estate representatives and people who wanted to invest, as well as representatives of insurance companies. We were negotiating in an endeavour to arrive at some sort of solution which would make home ownership possible and yet not make things impossible from the company's point of view. We wanted to ensure that the company was not disadvantaged financially from a taxation point of view.

It was not an easy matter because, as we all know, the cost of building there—owing to the remoteness of the area, the cost of labour and transport handicaps—is immensely higher than it is in lived-in areas and particularly in the metropolitan region around Perth. Even three or four years ago the cost of building a house up there was \$50 000 or \$55 000. It was very difficult to devise a method by which the company should sell the houses to the purchasers who were the employees. It was hard to envisage someone paying such a high price when, for that amount of money, a house could be bought at that time in Peppermint Grove, virtually.

Various aspects had to be taken into consideration with regard to an outside company benefiting from a taxation point of view from the written-down value of the houses, etc. The problem of replacement arose because everyone was optimistic that the work force would increase. Consequently, lengthy negotiations ensued.

It must be remembered that during this time circumstances changed very much. Positive and negative circumstances arose in addition to the existing ones. One of these was the rumour, and possibly the endeavour, that the Commonwealth Government at one stage would tax the difference

between the actual rent paid and the amount assessed as a reasonable economic rent for this accommodation. Had this happened, but fortunately it did not—and I would also include the gratis supply of electricity and other services—it would have created an entirely different set of conditions.

Through all this, and after a great deal of expert advice, negotiations, and an immense amount of study, the companies' final submission became quite a thick document. However, after much study, a solution has been reached which it is hoped by everyone, including the companies, will succeed.

Once the proposal was received and was found to be practicable, the Government wanted to introduce the legislation to enable the companies to go ahead. Of course, an amendment was necessary to cater for the lease conditions to enable the company to give freehold title. In many cases this will be done through the R & I Bank which must be commended for its co-operation and assistance.

I repeat that there is no guarantee that his plan will be 100 per cent successful. I can reveal a little internal secret. When negotiations are in progress a Minister must consult with the Under Treasurer to assure him that too many concessions are not being made. With regard to a superannuation fund, it is not envisaged that every member of the fund will find it necessary to apply for the benefits on the one day, thus leaving insufficient money in the fund. In the same way it is not envisaged that all the houses will be sold tomorrow to all the employees. Of course, they will not be. However, I hazard a guess that if a few hundred are sold within the first financial year, the project will immediately be a success, and those sales will be an incentive and encouragement to other employees to follow suit.

Also I must indicate that it is not a simple exercise to sell a house for a certain value to an employee without his being assured of a resale value. But this package is virtually a form of life assurance. It must be remembered that if the market value for the freehold property does not appreciate the employee will not be able to resell his house if he moves from the area. The companies have catered for this possibility by undertaking to repurchase a home after a period of time at an appreciated value, if an employee leaves the company and moves elsewhere. Of course, if a buyer, another employee of the company, is available, the employee will not be prevented from selling his home privately. A scale of appreciated values has been set. Consequently, even if employees do not have enough pride to

own their own home, which is the accepted custom in our society, he can be persuaded to consider the matter as a financial deal, because it is a good life assurance policy. If the employee wishes to sell he will get his money back, plus quite a bit more.

I only hope that this endeavour will be successful. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition expressed some anxiety, which I can understand, but I want to emphasise that this will not be the first and last step. The problem concerning the necessity for local authorities to foot the bill for what will be, admittedly, fairly costly services will have to be considered at a later date.

It must be remembered that these inland places will not immediately become free towns merely because of this opportunity employees will have to acquire homes on a freehold basis. It will depend on the willing co-operation of the population, the shire councils, the companies, and the Government. We must be realistic and accept that it will also depend on the financial resources available, and particularly the financial resources of the Government.

However, we hope that this first step will be successful, and that a number of houses will be purchased by the employees, who will then desire to participate in local government and organise their own affairs. In this way the transition will be smooth.

Nothing could be better for those people than that they should be able to do what they, themselves, want to do. If that is so I am quite sure the cost will not be a major consideration. It simply means that they want to be involved in their own affairs and want to decide what kind of facilities they will maintain or, perhaps, add. They will foot the bill. That has been the history of every township and every settlement throughout Western Australia. Just because the inland mining towns in the Pilbara started off on a different footing, I cannot see that should be the pattern for all time.

With regard to the additional expenses for services such as water, electricity, etc. mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I wonder whether they are prohibitive in the endeavours of families to own their own houses. They are no different from the expenses of anyone living in Perth, Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, or anywhere else—even in older established areas. People have to pay for electricity, lawn mowing, and air-conditioning when they own their own houses. If those people improve their houses the values will be increased in the event of the owners moving from the area.

I am reasonably sure the scheme will succeed. I am sure that if it does it will be a very good example from the point of view of the other companies, and they will follow suit. Slowly, but within realistic conditions, we will be able to achieve this policy of normalisation.

I again thank the Opposition for enabling us to bring up this Bill now so that the other place can deal with it, and enable it to become a Statute.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Industrial Development), and transmitted to the Council.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: ELEVENTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 9th May, on the following motion by Mr Shalders—

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 STEPHENS** (Stirling) [3.15 p.m.]: I would like to take this opportunity in speaking to the Address-in-Reply debate to make some reference to situations which exist in my electorate. As members will be aware, I represent a mixed farming area which has as its principal outlet the town and port of Albany. We do have our problems in that area.

Albany, of course, received a severe economic jolt when the Federal Liberal Government decided to go ahead with an inquiry into the whaling industry. That inquiry resulted in the cessation of whaling activities in Albany, and that had a great impact on the town. To me it is quite apparent it was thought to be more important to placate a few conservationists in Melbourne and Sydney than it was to consider the economic interests of the town of Albany, which is a couple

of thousand miles removed from Canberra and, no doubt, forgotten by the Federal Parliament.

I want to make the point that I could have supported the cessation of whaling if it had been on a world-wide basis, but our unilateral withdrawal from whaling, in my opinion, will not help the whales very much, and it will not make very much difference to the whales whether they are killed by one country or another. I notice that the Federal Government now is to support a world-wide moratorium on whaling; another area in which it has taken a leaf out of the Whitlam Government's policy. I do not support the Federal Government for that.

The fishing industry in Albany has grown considerably and, no doubt, has taken up some of the slack in employment caused by the cessation of whaling. I am aware that the small boat operators have both good and bad periods. I am aware also of the assistance which the Government has given to the Southern Ocean cannery. That move has my full support. I understand the industry has some problems, but the operators are battling with them. I wish them well and we hope they get on top of the problems and finish up with a viable industry.

During the last two or three years we have been hearing about some form of economic recovery. There has been talk about a consumer-led recovery, and also talk about an investment-led recovery. I believe the slight economic recovery we have experienced has been a rural and agricultural-led recovery. That is highlighted by the fact that the diversification which has occurred in the rural sector has been most important.

There has been a dramatic increase in the price of beef, and that is not before time. I would like to congratulate those beef producers who were able to hang on and battle against all odds during the last four years. It is possible they can now see some daylight, and a possible end to their problems.

Of course, wool prices, grain prices, and mutton and lamb prices are reasonably buoyant. Because of that situation, together with the increased beef prices, it could be assumed that the agricultural industries have an optimistic future.

It is true to say there is a degree of optimism throughout the agricultural areas, but it is clouded somewhat because many farmers are apprehensive about the escalation in prices. Some of the increase may be due to inflation, but some of my farming friends—and I am afraid I am inclined to agree with them—believe that the increased prices are a rip-off. Now that the



agricultural industries are bringing in reasonable earnings, we have to watch the situation very closely.

Fuel is, of course, one of the major cost inputs in the agricultural industries, perhaps affecting the grain growers more than others, but it is a very important cost to the agricultural industries. We have recently seen increases in the price of fuel. In addition, we have had the large impost on drum charges and the increase in the cost of Avgas, and all these increases have been a blow to the rural community.

Mr Speaker, you would not allow me to develop the point now, but we also have the alteration in road maintenance funding which is now before the House. All these costs and other matters are of serious concern to the rural industries, and this is why they are very apprehensive at the moment, notwithstanding the fact that there has been a lift in prices.

We have other problems in the industry. A problem in my particular area has been the imposition of clearing bans, which will have a considerable impact on the social and economic situation in the affected areas, and in my electorate three shires are affected. While all farmers in the area are conscious of the salt problem and of the need to regulate clearing, neither they nor I can go along with the manner in which the Government introduced the bans.

It is a sad day when this Parliament is in fact misled by virtue of the Government's silence on some matters. It is exceedingly regrettable when a Bill is brought before Parliament and we are led to believe it is a Bill to regulate clearing by a licensing system but we are not told it will virtually ban the clearing of virgin bush because no licences will be issued.

The legislation came before this House in October-November last year, yet on two occasions in the space of two days in January this year two senior public servants told me that while farmers could apply for licences they would be refused; they could appeal to the Minister, who would reject their appeals, and they had their way out in compensation.

Compensation is not the answer. We must deal with the salt problem but let us get at it in a realistic way and not expect one section of the community to bear the burden of solving the problem.

Mr Hassell: Did you or your party oppose the legislation?

Mr STEPHENS: As we know, in this place we cannot always anticipate what measures are coming up on the Notice Paper. For the

edification of the member for Cottesloe, I was trying to increase my knowledge of the salt problem by attending a WISALTS field day in my electorate at Tambellup on the day the legislation went through the House. I thank the honourable member for his interjection because it gives me the opportunity to explain why I was not here. I do not think anyone would deny me the right to go to the WISALTS field day to learn what is going on in my electorate.

The legislation is one thing. I have already pointed out it is my belief that by its silence the Government has misled this House. It gave no indication of the guidelines which would be used, yet senior members of the Public Service knew what the guidelines would be. That is the point I was trying to make.

We also have the problem with the abattoirs. We in the National Party will be watching it very closely because we believe it is essential that a service works be maintained in the State.

Mr Skidmore: I hope you support the member for Swan in his endeavours to have Midland retained.

Mr STEPHENS: I do not necessarily say Midland should be retained. I am saying we are very conscious of the problem and will do our utmost to ensure a service works is maintained in this State.

In my opinion, the problem at Midland is partly due to the chickens coming home to roost. For many years prior to entering Parliament I was on the meat section of the Farmers' Union, including the difficult period between 1968 and 1970 when the Farmers' Union was continually pressing the then Government for abattoir facilities to kill the stock that was available. We all know there was inadequate killing capacity and procrastination for several years. Eventually we had the Towns and Austen report which stated categorically that no further moneys should be spent on expansion at Midland. So the Government turned around and spent additional moneys on Midland, and therein lies part of the problem we are facing today.

Clover scorch is another serious problem in my electorate and all along the south coast. Clover scorch and wilt are seriously affecting the carrying capacity in the area, and of course if the carrying capacity is affected we have loss of production. I am aware that the plant research section of the Department of Agriculture has produced a couple of clovers which are either totally or partially resistant to clover scorch and wilt. I believe action to undertake research on alternative legumes was rather late in coming

about; however, I will say when the need arose the plant research section acted promptly.

My understanding at the moment is that the productivity of Esperance, one of the clovers which has been developed, only approximates that of the Woogenilup clovers when they are 50 per cent affected by clover scorch. So, while we may have a clover which is largely resistant to scorch, its productivity in no way equates that of the clover it is replacing. It is important that further research be carried out in this area.

Along the south coast we have another problem with oats. West oats is the variety that has been used of late. However, it is subject to rust and the grain is a little darker than is desirable for overseas markets. I must add it is selling reasonably well but, being darker, in the first instance, and growing down on the south coast, when it has any degree of weather staining it looks a lot worse than it actually is, which makes marketing more difficult.

From my inquiries I understand the plant research section is trying to breed oats. It tries them out in different areas and it may happen that it will come up with a variety which is suitable for the south coast. I believe the plant research section should set out especially to develop oat varieties for growing along the south coast which would enhance our carrying capacity and the productivity of the region. Now that west oats has developed susceptibility to rust, some farmers in the area are not prepared to take the risk of planting it.

Another problem in that area is rye grass toxicity. Here again, while some work is being done—and I am not criticising what is being done at the moment—perhaps more should be done. I understand the Department of Agriculture recently said the problem has largely been solved because stock losses have decreased considerably. However, from discussing the problem with farmers I understand it is really the farmer's ability to diagnose the problem and withdraw stock from paddocks which has resulted in the lessening of stock losses.

In order to decide whether the problem has been overcome, we should look at the number of paddocks taken out of production rather than the actual loss of stock numbers. Of course we know that the toxicity has spread to wild oats. It has been detected in phalaris, and in future years we may find it is in wheat or barley; it could represent one of the most serious problems farmers have to face up to, particularly in view of its effect on sheep and pigs.

These difficulties are causing concern to farmers in my electorate and also farmers throughout the south coastal region. I am prepared to acknowledge that work is being carried out, but it is not sufficient. When we find as much as \$4 million being spent in the Ord River area, surely we could spend more in the great southern because of its known productivity. I urge the Government to allocate increased funds for work in these areas so that the gap between the problem and its resolution is reduced. Increased productivity helps the whole community.

The National Party is very much in favour of a family unit farm concept. At the time of the 1975 Federal election campaign, the then Senator Tom Drake-Brockman put forward, on behalf of the National Country Party and the Liberal Party, a policy of funding to assist the younger generation onto farms. I have written to Senator Drake-Brockman on several occasions about this, but although it was a policy statement, nothing ever came of it. So I would like to commend the rural youth movement in this State for its initiative in bringing out to Western Australia one of the vice presidents of the Saskatchewan Land Bank Commission to outline the whole system, and Mr Ray McPharlin, on behalf of the National Party, was right on the scene and invited Mr David Miner to Parliament House to discuss the problem. So this is one area where we ought to be able to make a breakthrough to assist the younger generation onto farms, particularly now that the price of farm land has escalated to such a degree. In this concept also we are quite happy to have the support of the National Country Party.

I would like to make a few comments about education. For many years there has been a pressing need for a new high school in Albany. In fact, I advocated and campaigned for this way back in 1971, so we can see that things do not come rapidly to the great southern. Recently several seminars were held concerning the alternatives available for a second high school in the Albany area. In my opinion the seminars were quite successful and gave many people the opportunity to express their points of view. However, I am very disappointed with the fact that although the Government subsequently carried out a survey of the area, it is quite obvious to anyone who analyses that survey that it was carried out for the purpose of obtaining support for a preconceived idea. I am aware that the parents and citizens' associations of the area are not very happy about the way in which the survey was carried out. Although the survey is completed and figures have been compiled, I have heard off

the record that the survey has confirmed the Government's point of view. I do not believe it is too late for the Government to undertake another survey on a more open basis, and I urge the Government to review the situation.

I am pleased to be able to say that the Flinders Park school, which was opened a year ago, is growing rapidly along with the development in the area. Recently I wrote to the Minister about additions to this school. I was very unhappy with the Minister's reply which was to the effect that any accommodation problem would be met by the use of demountable classrooms. While I agree that the use of demountable classrooms in an emergency is commendable, surely forward planning could be undertaken to ensure the maintenance of a high standard in the case of an excellent school such as this. Although demountable classrooms are temporary, they have a habit of becoming permanent.

Improvements are needed also to the Cranbrook school. The problems at this school are of a long-standing nature and even as long ago as 1971 the then Minister promised some assistance. Although some work was carried out, it was insufficient. Surely the Government could squeeze the purse a little to speed up the rate of improvements.

The Little Grove area near Albany is also growing rapidly. I hope the Government is already seriously considering the need for a school there.

My only other comment about education is about the problems that have arisen over the altered commencement of the school year. In my opinion the Government handled this whole matter very badly. Basically, the present situation is that the teachers now knock off earlier and commence earlier, while the children have had their holidays increased by two days. The whole problem could have been solved easily by allowing schools to finish at the normal time and giving school principals an option to request an early return of the teachers.

Mr Davies: I believe most teachers already did this on a voluntary basis.

Mr STEPHENS: The private schools followed this course. It is no good bringing the teachers and children back to the schools if the supplies are not there. I have received many complaints from parents in my electorate to the effect that school materials were received as long as three or four weeks after school commenced. After all the fuss and bother that occurred, the parents felt that the necessary materials should have been available for the children when they returned to school.

Turning now to the subject of water supplies, I am very happy to say that towns within my area are gradually being serviced. The need for a comprehensive water scheme in the great southern was part of my policy when I contested the 1971 election. Although the scheme has not developed along the lines I suggested, nevertheless the towns are being coupled up. Tambellup was connected a few years ago, Rocky Gully was given a supply last year, and Frankland River will be supplied later this year. Kendenup is waiting to be connected to the scheme, and it is necessary to extend the system into several parts of the Albany Shire.

I made inquiries recently of the Public Works Department, and I was very pleased to be advised that funding is being considered for the extension to the Elleker and Gledhow-Cuthbert areas.

However, I am a little concerned about the Mt. Many Peaks area. This is another small town, with only a small area. Recently a request was made for a water supply for the school grounds, and a separate request was made for a water supply for the town. I proposed to the Government that consideration be given to combining the two and providing one water supply, particularly as the local people tell me the water available from a bore is adequate for the purpose. I know it is the policy that town water supplies may not be used for the irrigation of school grounds, but in this case I just cannot understand the thinking of the Government because a very small area is involved. The policy should be sufficiently flexible to enable it to be varied in such cases.

The people of Mt. Many Peaks who have been pressing for the water supply have been told recently that it is not feasible to have one supply to serve the town and the school, and so the feasibility of having two water supplies is being investigated. Separate water supplies in this small town would entail two pumps, two pipelines, and two overhead tanks, and I think that is unnecessary and expensive. I would urge the Government to reconsider this matter so that at least in smaller towns combined water supplies may be installed if only for the saving in finance which would result.

In the area of recreation I feel the Government should give consideration to opening up more areas of land on the south coast for holidaymakers. In the south we have a glorious climate and a glorious coastline, and already excessive pressure is being experienced at holiday sites along the south coast. Urgent consideration should be given to the development of such areas so that the people of Western Australia,

generally, will have places to go to enjoy their recreation.

We are getting more and more leisure time and longer holidays, and it is important that areas be made available for passive recreation.

While on the question of recreation I am concerned at the fact that sporting clubs and cultural groups, such as bands, are compelled to pay sales tax when purchasing equipment and materials. These are cultural and recreational activities, and I cannot see that the people concerned should be required to pay sales tax, which is paid into the coffers of the Federal Government, particularly when there is a way of overcoming the situation. The Local Government Act could be amended to allow local authorities to purchase materials on behalf of the various groups in their communities, thereby avoiding the payment of sales tax. I would urge the Government to give consideration to amending the Local Government Act to enable that to be done.

The grants that are made available through the Community Recreation Department are of considerable benefit to the community, and I have always applauded the action of the Government in this area. However, I think the system could be further refined and improved if, instead of providing grants, money was made available on an interest-free repayable loan basis. The fact that the money is free of interest would be of great assistance to the recipients. Repayments on the loans could be paid into a revolving fund which would increase over a period of time and give greater scope for assistance to be made available in many areas and to many people.

I think such a system also would encourage initiative; it would encourage recipients of the loans to go out and help themselves. So I would urge the Government to consider replacing the grant system—if not entirely, at least by making available a fair percentage of the money as repayable loans.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.06 p.m.*

Mr STEPHENS: I wish to discuss now a subject which is of deep interest to me. After being in this place for over eight years, it has become quite apparent to me there is need for both electoral and parliamentary reform. I have spoken on previous occasions of the need for electoral reform and I have a motion on the Notice Paper concerning this matter, so perhaps I should confine my remarks at this stage to the need for parliamentary reform.

As a parliamentarian, I am increasingly concerned at the public's attitude towards the institution of Parliament. If we who are involved stopped to think about it, we would not be surprised at this attitude. It is quite apparent the public are increasingly doubting the relevance of Parliament, simply because they equate government exclusively with the Executive and see Parliament as comprising Government members who are controlled by the Government, and Opposition members who cannot influence decisions.

Expressed in another way, that simply means the public regard Parliament as a rubber stamp. They can see the situation for what it is; namely, a dictatorship by the Executive.

It is my conclusion that, on the basis on which we operate at the moment, once an election is over, the majority has been decided and Cabinet is elected, the rest of the members of Parliament would be virtually as effective if they remained in their electorates and practised the other side of their parliamentary responsibilities, rather than remaining here, contributing to the debates.

If any member doubts the truth of this statement, let him consider what has happened since Parliament resumed this year. We have had many debates, one of which continued throughout the night. But what did they change? Absolutely nothing! Both sides argued from a predetermined position and were not prepared to give anything. So, about the only thing we are doing is contributing to the costs of government. Parliament is a costly place to run, and we are not really achieving anything by way of debate. I believe this to be one of the principal reasons the public are beginning to lose any respect they may have had for the institution of Parliament. It behoves each and every one of us in this institution to see what we can do about rectifying that position. I know other members have spoken on this subject, which indicates it is a matter of growing concern.

What can we do about improving the image of Parliament? To my mind, the first thing is that members must change their attitudes; they must be prepared to make decisions based on the facts, as they affect their electorates; they must be prepared to come in here and, if necessary, vote contrary to the way the leaders of their particular parties may wish them to vote. Certainly, it would not be contrary to the way the electors would wish them to vote. I believe if the public were to take cognisance of this problem and put pressure on their members, we would see some change of attitude.

Apart from that, we need to look at our sitting hours; this subject was mentioned last night by the member for Perth. Although I do not entirely agree with the suggestions he made last night, I accept there is a need to change our sitting hours. Perhaps I adopt a different attitude from that of the member for Perth because I am a country member and, in addition to the problems which have been outlined by city members, country members face the problem of travelling time, and of being further from our constituencies when the House is sitting.

We should reconsider our sitting hours on the basis of sitting for two weeks and having a week off. Of course, this would require longer hours during the two weeks we were sitting, but there are various ways of achieving the longer hours without sitting the late hours at night that we currently do. We could consider starting on Tuesday at one o'clock and going through until seven o'clock, without a break for afternoon tea. It would not be necessary to wait until the conclusion of lunch. If we had a quorum in the House of 17 members, the sitting could start. Members could circulate to and from the dining room without having a set break for lunch. At present, we sit in the evenings and we do not break for supper; yet we break for afternoon tea. I do not think this would be breaking new ground; it would be reconsidering or realigning the whole proposition.

On Wednesdays, we could start at 11 o'clock and go through until six o'clock or 6.30. Once again, there would be no need to adjourn for lunch or afternoon tea. The meal could be taken as members felt inclined. All members need not be in the dining room at the same time.

Mr Davies: It would be first in, best fed.

Mr STEPHENS: That may be so. That might be the situation at the moment, for all I know.

I have already said that we do not adjourn for supper, so why should we adjourn for the other meals? We could compact the sitting times. We could sit for three days a week for two weeks, and have a week off. Everybody would be better off. We would not have late nights. Country members would have the extra week in their electorates. This would be of advantage to country members—in particular those who still have young families. We should have a serious look at adjusting our sitting times.

My next topic relates to the control of business in the House. I can see no reason for not having a Speaker's committee, representative of both parties in the House—

Mr Carr: There are only two parties, are there?

Mr STEPHENS: Of all parties. I apologise for my slip.

Mr Davies: You forgot the National Country Party, I am sure.

Mr STEPHENS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that.

Mr Skidmore: There are only two parties—the National Party and the Liberal Party.

Mr B. T. Burke: Are you speaking on behalf of the party, or are these your own comments?

Mr STEPHENS: We are a progressive party, so I can say I am speaking on behalf of the party. When we speak about two parties, we mean there are only two parties. It surprises me that the Opposition has referred to the Liberal Government *ad infinitum*, but I have never heard any challenge from the Government side. That indicates there is only one party in the Government. Of course, the members of the National Party are sitting on the cross benches.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr STEPHENS: I will not comment on that, as I am running out of time—

Mr B. T. Burke: That is true.

Mr STEPHENS: —in this debate. I will leave that question to my electors.

I will not be side-tracked. I am speaking about a Speaker's committee. That committee should meet to consider the business of the House. As it is necessary for all parties to be in agreement about the manner in which the business is handled, this would improve the running of the House.

The greatest area of need is in the formation of committees. I know this will be dear to the heart of at least one member on the Opposition benches—

Mr Davies: Many members.

Mr STEPHENS: If a committee system were developed, the members acting on the various committees would be less partisan in their approach. Most of the activities of the committees would be outside the glare of the public spotlight. Members would not be playing to the gallery, as they are wont to do in the situation which exists at the moment.

Mr Tonkin: Speak for yourself!

Mr STEPHENS: I was a member of the South Coast Fisheries Study Committee. I believe that the attitude of the members of the committee was excellent. The members made their decisions as they saw the facts, and not along party political lines.

If committee activity were increased, I feel sure that there would be an improvement in the House. The committees would take evidence from any parties who wished to come along. They would hear other points of view. They could cross-examine and question the heads of departments and the various officers involved in the compilation of legislation. Such a system would make for a more informed approach to legislation.

I realise that if we developed a committee system to the fullest extent it would require a reconsideration of our procedures in handling Bills. That is another area to which consideration could be given.

By taking an active interest in these matters, and acting along these lines, we would improve the status of Parliament. As far as I am concerned, one point is clear: the present system may have suited the easier pace and less sophistication of earlier days, but it certainly is not geared to the sophistication of today. If the Parliament is to become really effective, not only in the field of legislation but also as the watchdog of the Administration and the reviewer of public spending, there is an urgent need for reform.

I am pleased that the Federal Parliament is in a reforming mood. I congratulate the Speaker of the House of Representatives (Sir Billy Snedden) and the members involved for the way in which they are trying to improve the procedures in the Federal parliamentary system. That is a lead which we in this House should follow as a matter of urgency.

Nobody can tell me that under the present system we can adequately control public spending, or even have a full understanding of the public spending which takes place. Public spending is an area in which each and every one of us should take an active interest, with a view to reducing unnecessary and wasteful expenditure.

I would like to make one comment out of the blue. I express my extreme disappointment in relation to the Government's attitude to WAY '79—the anniversary celebrations. I am not condemning the Government for its spending on the celebrations, but I sometimes wonder how the Government established its priorities. A considerable sum of money was spent on an overseas tour by the Minister for Tourism in order to promote WAY '79.

Mr Blaikie: Money well spent.

Mr STEPHENS: The money may have been well spent, but I could think of a better way to spend \$12 500 of it. I am not saying that the Government should not have spent any money at

all. My point is about the Government's method of establishing priorities.

Mr Blaikie interjected.

Mr STEPHENS: I have to speak loudly to speak over the member for Vasse, because he rattles on.

The hospital at Mt. Barker, in my area, discovered when cyclone "Alby" struck that its auxiliary back-up plant was insufficient for the purpose. The Government was approached for the provision of an auxiliary power plant which would be able to function adequately in similar circumstances, if they occurred again.

The money required for a new plant is \$12 500. The Government wrote to the hospital and said, "No, we haven't any money. Get it yourself." An appeal is being conducted in the Mt. Barker area for the money to buy an auxiliary lighting plant for the hospital. Does the Government still say that its priorities are right, when it spends a large sum of money on an overseas trip for a Minister to promote Way '79, but it cannot find \$12 500 for an auxiliary plant for the hospital?

The National Party supports the Government in principle but not necessarily in detail. We are prepared to make a searching and objective analysis of legislation in the interests of the people of the State. We will try to bring back into this Parliament a decision-making process rather than have the dictatorship I spoke of earlier.

The need for a genuine alternative party has been clearly established in the last two Parliaments. In the previous session we had important issues such as the bauxite Bill, the Mining Bill, and the electoral Bill where we saw certain members of the National Country Party not being prepared to stand up for their policies. We have now the situation developing with respect to the road maintenance tax issue and we heard the Minister for Agriculture interject yesterday merely to say that the National Country Party is researching the matter of stock transport. This after the Bill has already been introduced into the House!

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [4.21 p.m.]: The Address-in-Reply debate allows members to range far and wide in the choice of topics they discuss. I have been concerned with some of the speeches made by members of the Opposition when from time to time they have denigrated members of the community, people who have no way to reply to comments made. I believe the Press has an absolute responsibility to report in an on-going manner what is said in this place not just fairly, but accurately. The Opposition member I have in mind is the member for Swan.

Mr Skidmore: Surprise, surprise!

Mr BLAIKIE: In a speech this year the member for Swan denigrated the President of the Augusta-Margaret River Shire, Councillor Allan Hillier.

Mr Skidmore: I never did.

Mr BLAIKIE: The member implied there was an improper motive involved when the shire president was connected with the development of land in the shire. Irrespective of what other members may have said in the House on that night, an article appeared in the Press the following day with the headline, "Shire President questioned on land deals".

I state categorically that the shire president is to be totally absolved from the aspersions and innuendoes cast upon his character. I shall explain to the House the character of this man.

Mr Skidmore: I agree with you.

Mr BLAIKIE: The member besmirched the character of the shire president and blackened the reputation of the shire council, and I intend to put the record straight. I want the situation to be put into proper perspective as I believe it is very important that this be done. The shire president is a real estate agent, but did not take office until January of this year. In fact, if the member for Swan had wanted to interrogate the shire president of the time it would have been the late Councillor Stewart Smith.

Mr Skidmore: I know that. I am not an idiot like you.

Mr BLAIKIE: I believe to attack a deceased person is a very despicable thing to do. The matter the member for Swan raised had been referred to the shire and taken up by the Department of Conservation and Environment. That department's officers had been to the shire and had discussions with councillors and as of last December the matter had been resolved to the satisfaction of the department. Five months later we find the matter was brought up in an attempt to show it as a scandal.

Notwithstanding all this I am deeply concerned to think the member for Swan in that same speech referred to a certain Mr X. This Mr X is known to me; he is a land developer. I do not know why Mr X was referred to in such a clandestine manner, apart from the fact that the inference was obviously to cast a veil of innuendo or to make a threat to the person involved. I intend to inform the House who this Mr X is; I am prepared to name him and to indicate what he has done and what he is doing.

Mr B. T. Burke: Are you sure it is the same Mr X?

Mr BLAIKIE: The person concerned is Mr Geoff Edwards who currently lives at Whispering Pines, Mundijong. He is the founder of Prevelly Park. He happens to be a person I believe to be of some importance in the community of Western Australia. He is a person thought of with reverence by the Greek community of Australia because of his contributions to the Greek people. He has been prepared to recognise what the Greek people have done for Australia. So much for the innocuous innuendoes cast on his character.

Mr B. T. Burke: Hardly innocuous, surely.

Mr BLAIKIE: Mr Edwards has created a memorial chapel at Prevelly Park in recognition of the people of the Greek church who sheltered Australian soldiers during World War II. The chapel is to be opened on the 4th June by His Eminence, Archbishop Stylianos, of the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia.

I believe Mr Edwards to be of upright character; he does not deserve to be referred to in the Parliament of Western Australia as Mr X. Opposition members should refer to him in a proper and appropriate manner.

Several members interjected.

Mr BLAIKIE: I shall try to continue. Members have spoken to a wide range of subjects during this Address-in-Reply debate and I am concerned at the apparent lack of action by Ministers of the Government. I believe Ministers should take heed of points members refer to which might be of some importance to the electorate or of some magnitude to the State.

The particular matter I have spoken of should have prompted a response from the responsible Minister to say whether or not there was any truth in the inference to be drawn from what the member for Swan had to say. The Minister should have ascertained whether the member for Swan's remarks, which indicated that the shire president may have had "sticky fingers", bore any truth at all. I ask Ministers to take a look at these matters, otherwise the Address-in-Reply debate virtually will become a waste of time. It is important members should do some preparation before they make their contribution. When that is done I believe the Government should recognise it is necessary to take action in one form or another. Even if a reply is not given in the House, it should be possible for a communication to be posted to a member if he has brought up a matter of concern.

One topic which has come up time and time again is the 150th Anniversary celebrations, with

members of the Opposition criticising and members of the Government appreciating the celebrations. For my part the 150th celebrations have been an outstandingly successful achievement. Although we are only into the month of May I believe the celebrations will be sustained throughout the year. The response of the people with whom I have been associated has been very good, to the extent that I have been placed in the somewhat embarrassing position of being asked to attend up to three functions to be held at the one time.

The celebrations have been successful and have proved to be invaluable to the local communities. The celebrations have tended to bring the communities together and bring back the family spirit. It is not so much that people have had, say, a race meeting and called it the "150th celebrations meeting", but that people have actually gone out of their way to create a function especially for the occasion. The people want to be involved in these celebrations. If they did not the functions would not receive their support. The functions I have attended to date have been very successful.

The most important point has been the community participation aspect. There has been nothing grandiose about the functions because they have been spontaneous events. We, in my electorate did not have a special 150th Anniversary concert to herald the commencement of the celebrations. Prince Charles has not visited the area. We have not had a re-enactment of the landing of Captain Stirling. The celebrations have not cost us tens of thousands of dollars, as has been the case in the city. We have proved the point that television sets do not control our local communities as people in country areas want to get on with the job of providing their own entertainment and activities to commemorate the 150th Anniversary. They have done this extremely well.

At every function I have attended, whether it was large or small, I have listened to the same response which is that the people did not realise they could do what they had done. They say, "Is it not great to see people getting together as they did years ago?" They say also, "The only time I used to see relatives was when we went to a wedding or funeral. Thank goodness we have changed. The 150th celebrations are wonderful."

I believe the celebrations have done a great deal for country areas. I cannot speak for city areas, because my experience has been in the country. I hope the type of celebrations we have seen in the country will continue. It would be an achievement if we built up a tradition of conducting similar

celebrations each year. Whether or not people decide to dress in "funny" clothes, as some people refer to them, is a personal decision. It is their right to dress as they wish. I believe the 150th Anniversary celebrations have been an outstanding success.

Not to be outdone by the member for Ascot, I have been doing some shopping also.

Mr Bateman: The Chamber is starting to look like a supermarket.

Mr BLAIKIE: I am very pleased the member for Canning has helped me there, because the very point I am about to make is that the products I intend to refer to do not require refrigeration.

Mr B. T. Burke: What are they—shoes?

Mr BLAIKIE: Whilst I was shopping—

Mr Carr: Do you mean you supported local businesses in your area?

Mr BLAIKIE: The shopping I have been involved in has not been confined to Western Australia. I have been shopping in a number of other States. Recently I visited the Eastern States and spent some time in Tasmania. I do not want to bore members by delving again into my association with the dairy industry. Whenever I travel I become involved in the dairy industry and I have a look at conditions in other places as I have always had this interest. A few years ago I became associated with some of the new processes used in relation to milk products. On my recent visit to the Eastern States I became involved in the field of UHT milk or, as it is commonly called, long life milk.

This process does not relate only to milk, but involves a variety of products. For the benefit of members I should like to explain that the product is heated to a temperature of 145 degrees celsius. It is held at that temperature for two seconds, cooled rapidly, packed in aluminium lined containers, and sealed in an air-tight manner. This product then has a shelf storage life of six months. The important point about this product is that it does not require to be refrigerated. It has a shelf life of six months. I believe it is a product which Western Australians ought to look at, because other States regard this State as being one in which long life products could be marketed.

Milk is a staple food and when we look at the growing population north of the 26th parallel and at the existing population, it is clear that long life products are marketable there. I believe it has an excellent market potential, because it does not need to be refrigerated. A variety of States produce long life products. They are produced in



New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania.

A plant has been operating since 1977 in New South Wales. The present production is approximately 28 000 litres of fluid per day. It operates for three days processing milk, for one day on orange juice, and for a further day on milk custard. I have these products with me and I ask the attendant to display them to members. It is important that members understand what UHT or long life products are. One can talk about these matters until one is blue in the face, but it is important that members should understand exactly what I am referring to. We are becoming involved in a product which has the potential of being a major seller in Western Australia. There are no producers of this product in Western Australia.

Mr Davies: That happened seven years ago.

Mr B. T. Burke: Twelve years ago.

Mr Watt: What does the process involve?

Mr BLAIKIE: The product is heated to an extremely high temperature, cooled rapidly, placed in a foil-lined container, and sealed in an air-tight manner. That product will then keep for an expected lifetime of six months. It will probably keep for a longer period. However, the important factor is this product does not require to be refrigerated. This is vastly different from products available currently in Western Australia. I believe it is extremely important to understand the point that this product differs from those available currently in Western Australia.

I should like now to turn to Queensland United Foods. This company's product is available in Western Australia. The company markets UHT milk which is available in one-litre and 500ml containers. This company, using the name Pauls, is packaging straight milk, skim milk, and custard. The company packages fruit juices under a different brand name. Unfortunately I was not able to obtain supplies of it, because they did not arrive in time. The company also packages orange juice, fruit salad juice, and strawberry and chocolate-flavoured milk. These products also do not require to be refrigerated.

Mr McIver: Are they non-fattening?

Mr BLAIKIE: They certainly are not fattening. Members need only look at me for proof of that! It is an excellent product. I was amazed that these products are available and produced in Tasmania, because this island State has cooler climatic conditions than the rest of Australia. However, long life milk is being produced there. Bakers' Milk in Tasmania produces approximately 4 000 litres of processed milk per hour and the product

is sold to hospitals and fishing fleets and it is sent to Perth also. The company produces a concentrated form of orange juice which is available here. It produces individual portion packs which are used by airlines, rail service operators, hotels, and hospitals. There is an export potential for this product also.

It is important that we look at the products available currently on the market in Western Australia. We should look at what people are able to obtain in areas north of the 26th parallel.

They are able to buy reconstituted milk which consists of powdered skim milk with butterfat added. They are able to buy UHT milk—long life milk. For the edification of members I would indicate that the product they are getting happens to come from Queensland. This represents good marketing technique on the part of Queenslanders. I might add that Queenslanders are not promoting the article to the extent they should. I doubt that anyone here has ever seen advertising relating to UHT milk.

Mr Carr: A fair number of crayfishermen in the Abrolhos Islands use it and theirs comes from France.

Mr BLAIKIE: This further emphasises my argument. I have never seen this particular type of milk advertised so anyone buying it off the shelf would not really know what he was getting. However, I can assure members that having once sampled the product people will find it excellent. My message to Western Australian manufacturers is that they should wake up because they are losing a potential market. They have the capacity to produce this type of milk but the Eastern States companies are coming in and capturing the market.

Mr O'Neil: Fiji imports it in bottles from New Zealand.

Mr BLAIKIE: I thank the Deputy Premier for his assistance, because what he says only proves the point I am making; that is, there is a tremendous market potential relating to long life milk. During my last visit to Fiji I noticed they were importing their milk from New Zealand in bottles and this was the conventional frozen type, although they were using limited supplies of the UHT milk.

We have a market potential in the towns north of the 26th parallel but again we must consider what product they use. People can buy long life milk from Queensland, and reconstituted milk which comes from every other mainland State except Western Australia. One can buy the good old Western Australian litre of milk which happens to be frozen. The other alternative is

powdered milk. So we have a market potential for this type of milk which is not being utilised by Western Australian manufacturers.

The housewife has her alternative, but quite frankly I would not have a bar of frozen milk because some of it is reconstituted anyhow and once milk is frozen it loses its consistency and quality. However, as I said, the housewife in those areas which are very important to Western Australia has the alternative of buying UHT milk which is not produced in Western Australia.

Mr Carr: Have you any figures on the price differential?

Mr BLAIKIE: Yes, I have. I believe this is an important matter.

At a recent seminar of the Rural and Allied Industries Conference, one of the papers was presented by an eminent person involved in dairy technology in Western Australia, and he said—

The only consumers likely to benefit from the ready availability of UHT milk would be those in remote areas, fishermen, campers and travellers who preferred the convenience of a liquid milk supply to the more economical powdered or condensed milk. There seemed to be little point in developing a milk supply system which provided less service to the consumer, cost a good deal more in processing and packaging and provided milk that would keep for 4 to 5 months when most consumers would be satisfied with milk that kept for a week.

I regard that as being absolute nonsense. I have in my hand a carton of milk, but one needs to be a lawyer to be able to work out when it was packaged, because a code is involved.

I hasten to explain that I will not support any ALP move to change the packaging system as I may attempt to do it myself. However, if one looks at the coding used on the UHT milk, one finds it is quite clear. It indicates the date on which the milk was packaged and the date by which it should be used. In the case of the carton of UHT milk in my hand, it was packaged on the 13th March, to be used by the 13th August.

Mr Skidmore: I understand that ordinary milk containers are stamped with the date.

Mr BLAIKIE: That may well be, but no-one can understand the stamp.

Mr Carr: The day number is shown.

Mr BLAIKIE: The departmental officer who gave the paper I have just quoted must have his head in the sand and not know what is going on in other parts of the world or he would not have said that the public would be satisfied with buying

milk that kept for only a week. The Deputy Premier has already indicated the situation regarding UHT marketing in Fiji.

The paper continued—

UHT milk had made big inroads into the milk supply system in Western European countries where household delivery had been inadequate or not used. Limiting frequency of collection from shops to once a week was made possible by the introduction of UHT milk and this was more convenient than shopping for pasteurised milk every second day.

Surely that aspect is important. I am not in any way suggesting that UHT milk should be available in the Perth metropolitan area and that we should abandon the present system of milk vendors. I am suggesting that we have a market potential in the north of our State and outside Western Australia. This market is not being serviced by Western Australians but it ought to be forthwith.

The public themselves will ultimately decide whether they want the milkman to call every day or go to the supermarket and buy a month's supply at a time. However, having used the UHT milk I consider it to be a good product.

The paper continues—

As a consequence it was estimated that 40 per cent of milk supplies in those countries—

That was the western European countries. To continue—

—was UHT processed and this could reach over 60 per cent by 1980.

We know what is occurring in other parts of the world, and woe betide us if we do not take notice and follow suit. The UHT milk is produced in other States and it could be produced here.

The paper concluded as follows—

Recombination of skim milk powder and butterfat produced in the flush of the season was a more practicable way of overcoming any seasonal shortage of milk that might occur, especially if the recombined milk was mixed with the available fresh milk supply.

I maintain that that is a totally impracticable and senseless alternative. If a choice had to be made between the reconstituted milk, powdered milk, frozen milk, the conventional milk as delivered by the milkman, and the UHT milk, I am sure the first choice would be the conventional milk, and the second the UHT. Once a person has tried UHT he will find it hard to use anything else.

Mr Clarko: Does it go sour?

Mr BLAIKIE: No, not if it is used according to the instructions. It has remarkable keeping qualities. In addition it can be stored in the boot of a car, but once opened, it must be kept in the fridge.

I have been able to obtain some price comparisons. I was unable to obtain the price of a one-litre pack of UHT because it is not marketed here, but I have obtained the price of the 500 ml packs. The comparisons I can give are these: The price of a 500 ml container of UHT milk at Karratha is 37c. At Carnarvon, a 600 ml carton—fractionally larger—of frozen milk is priced at 36c. I challenge the quality of that milk when frozen. I claim that the UHT milk is far better for the consumer than the frozen product. The small price disparity would not matter because the consumer would get a better quality product.

The price of a one-litre pack of conventional milk at Kalgoorlie is 56c; at Geraldton, 58c; and at Augusta it is 50c. At Geraldton a 600ml-pack of conventional milk costs 35c. The pack of UHT milk which I bought at Karratha cost 37c, and I believe the same pack could be made available at Geraldton at about 35c. A 500ml-pack of conventional milk sells for 39c. I guarantee that the conventional milk would not compete with UHT milk even in price, without allowing for the fact that the quality of the UHT milk is superior.

There seems to be a "head-in-the-sand" attitude adopted by manufacturing companies in this State. I appreciate the difficulties which they face. They have to set up the infrastructure, and the plants to manufacture the product. That cost could involve a million dollars; and then it is possible the milk would not be available. I have heard the story a thousand times. However, if the companies in this State do not get off their tails and produce this type of milk, it will come in from other places. It already has.

My challenge to the manufacturing companies is to grasp the nettle and become involved. In the research I have carried out I asked various companies about the potentiality of northern markets. Those companies considered there was a potential market; but they also said the vast expenditure required to produce UHT milk—even in joint ventures—meant it would not be a goer.

The companies also told me they currently were importing long life milk from Tasmania mainly for the hotel and motel market to replace imported packaged milk powder because they did not want any competitors. Is that not a great deal? UHT milk is brought in from the other States to replace imported milk powders which

also are coming from the other States. Where is the good old Western Australian enterprise? These companies do not stand very well in my estimation.

In addition to all that, UHT thickened cream is imported from Victoria. The reason given was that it was to make up for the shortfall which occurred in Western Australia during the previous three-year period. It was also because Eastern States manufacturers were coming over here and taking a share of the traditional Western Australian cream market. Notwithstanding that, Victorian companies currently hold 60 per cent of the Western Australian cream market. What are Western Australian companies doing about that? They are importing UHT cream from Victoria in order to compete!

I ask: What has happened to the good old Western Australian product and what has happened to our Western Australian initiative?

Mr B. T. Burke: What has happened to the Busselton jetty!

Mr BLAIKIE: When I approached one of the companies I advised it that any information I received I intended to use during my speech in Parliament. The reason the company gave for importing cream was to prevent another agent selling a product against the dairy companies already in existence in Western Australia.

I believe this is where we come back to the fact that the Government has an obligation to show some responsibility.

Mr Stephens: Do you want the Government involved in a socialistic way?

Mr BLAIKIE: I believe the Government has some responsibility to the industry. The argument with regard to the cost of plant and the lack of supplies is a "chicken and egg" exercise. Western Australian companies have to use their initiative because the product is coming into this State, anyhow.

The present situation is one that should give incentive to the producers. I believe they will rise to the occasion and produce milk to meet the market to the benefit of the dairying industry in Western Australia. It is more than passing strange when one travels through various parts of this State and looks at the stocks on the shelves of the food stores. As a dairy farmer, and as one who has some association with the dairying industry, I find it abhorrent to see on the shelves goods which have been imported from Queensland. Queensland would be the most unlikely State from which to import dairy products because it is tropical and semi-tropical. In fact, the

Queenslanders have cornered a sizeable slice of the Western Australian dairy market.

What has happened to the Western Australian companies? Where are they? Why have they slowed down? If it is too costly for the Western Australian companies to get off their tails and do something, how is it that a Queensland company can market its products here after transporting them some 7 000 kilometres—half-way around Australia? The Queensland company is marketing the product extremely well, without any advertising. The only way the people buy the product is as a result of association with other dairy products. Goodness knows what would happen if the company which produces the UHT product decided to make other inroads into Western Australia by way of an advertising campaign.

As a final plea I say that we, as a State, cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand and ignore the UHT product.

I have spent considerable time talking about milk, and the need for additional plant to be established, but there are a number of associated products which ought to be considered, and which would add further scope to the expansion of the existing industries. I have spoken about the dairying industry, but I will mention also the apple and the citrus industries. Both are capable of dovetailing into a UHT processing plant because the juices would be produced at a slack time for milk products. That adds another dimension.

The details written on the Queensland UHT pack are in several languages. One language is French, no doubt to cater for the market in the islands of New Caledonia. Other printing obviously is in Japanese. Other markets which obviously are in close proximity to Western Australia are in Asia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia. That large market potential is currently being serviced with reconstituted milk, and I again challenge whether that product is satisfactory as far as the consumers are concerned. If we give consumers the alternative they will come back to it as their second choice after fresh milk.

Finally, I ask the Minister for Industrial Development and the Minister for Agriculture to initiate inquiries and an evaluation of the marketing opportunities in this State for UHT products. I believe UHT—ultra, heat treatment—will have a threefold effect; namely—

- (1) it will provide a better quality product within this State which is not currently being provided;

- (2) it will extend existing marketing opportunities to a vast number of primary producers who I believe will grasp the nettle and produce more if they are given the alternative; and
- (3) most importantly, it will satisfy a State market with a State resource, and the whole State will reap the benefit.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier).

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

*House adjourned at 5.47 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### ROADS: ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

#### *Replacement*

1. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Transport:

As a result of the joint parties' meetings with the Minister, has the Government made any changes to its package proposals for replacing the road maintenance tax and the raising of an additional sum of \$4.5 million for road funds to redress the lost value of funds for this purpose since October, 1977?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

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

The scheme was based on information supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics which is the official source of statistical information. Following queries by members at the joint party meetings a further investigation of the information was made. It appears the bureau's figures relate to documents lodged by the oil companies in Western Australia whereas some other oil companies lodge their documents in other capital cities.

Mr B. T. Burke: What shocking administration!

Mr RUSHTON: After cross checking with the Customs Department, the original figure of 103 869 million litres has been amended to 188 524 million for 1978. Therefore our estimate for the 12-month period ending the 31st March,

1979, has been revised to 190 million litres. We have revised our proposed levy on motor spirit and road-use diesel fuel to take into consideration the higher figure for diesel fuel consumption in order to produce the same estimated return of \$18.5 million from the fuel licence fee system; after taking vehicle licence fee concessions into account the overall net increase will be about \$4.5 million in funds.

This will enable the rates to be reduced from 4c per litre for diesel to 3c and from 1c per litre for petrol to 0.9c to provide an equitable contribution from road fuel users towards meeting the effects of road cost inflation and replacement of the road maintenance charge funds. The revised contributions will be \$12.8 million from the licence fees on motor spirit and \$5.7 million from diesel fuel.

In a broadly based scheme such as proposed in the legislation, and as I announced earlier, certain anomalies do occur. One such anomaly was for trucks transporting livestock. These trucks are not subject to the road maintenance charge and will now meet a higher cost from the diesel fuel levy without the relief enjoyed by vehicles which have been relieved from road maintenance charge payments. The Government proposes to partly cushion the impact of the new proposals on this class of truck by virtually eliminating their vehicle licence fees and imposing a nominal sum of \$10.

There are also some smaller diesel powered trucks in other occupations such as beekeeping which would be affected disproportionately by the new proposals. Also, to partly cushion these vehicles and prevent them from being unduly penalised, the Government proposes to provide a concession by reducing their licence fees to a nominal sum.

Due to the representations also made by members at the joint party meetings, I have increased the minimum tare weight for heavy motor wagons. There were some trucks whose tare weight slightly exceeded the 5 100 kg cut-off point but which were not subject to the road maintenance charge. Many of these diesel powered vehicles would have been unduly penalised by being subject to the

higher fuel levy but not being eligible for the vehicle licence fee concession. To accommodate these vehicles the minimum tare weight cut-off point has been raised from 5 100 kg to 5 865 kg.

## ROADS: ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

### *Replacement*

2. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) What were the estimated volumes of—

- (a) motor spirit
- (b) diesel fuel

which were used to calculate the amounts to be raised by the introduction of the levies in the Acts Amendment and Repeal (Road Maintenance) Bill?

(2) From where were these estimates obtained?

(3) Has it been necessary to recheck these assessments of estimated volume?

(4) If so, why?

(5) Has any revision been made of these estimates following the re-check?

(6) If there has been a revision of estimates, will the legislation before the House be affected?

I gather from the Minister's answer to the previous question that some of these questions already have been answered. However, as I had already sent a copy of the question to the Minister, I would hate to spoil a good answer, which I am sure he has.

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) (a) 1 423 672 000 litres.

(b) 107 504 500 litres.

(2) to (6) I refer the Leader of the Opposition to my answer to the member for Murray's question without notice today.

## ENTERTAINMENT: HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

### *Management: Applications*

3. Mr TAYLOR, to the Premier:

(1) Were applications for the management of Her Majesty's Theatre sought from interested persons or corporate organisations by public advertisement?

(2) If the appointment was not advertised as above, who was invited to apply, other than TVW Enterprises?

- (3) If no application was invited in the terms of (1) and (2) above, why not?
- (4) What was the basis of selection?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) Although the honourable member gave me notice of the question, unfortunately the commitments I had did not make it practicable for me to obtain all the information I needed to supply a full answer. I could answer most of the question off the cuff; however, I think it would be much safer if I could obtain a full and factual answer based on the official records. If the member cares to place his question on the Notice Paper or, if he does not have the opportunity to do that, to ask a question without notice next Tuesday, I will be happy to answer it for him.

## APPRENTICES

### Number

4. Mr NANOVICH, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

What is the present number of apprentices in training in Western Australia as compared with the numbers in the past few years?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The number of apprentices in training in Western Australia as at the 30th April, 1979, was 14 259. This was the first time that the total had passed the 14 000 mark. This current figure represents an increase of approximately 40 per cent over the June, 1974, figure. The increase is remarkable considering the tough economic conditions of recent years and reflects the positive approach adopted towards trade training.

Other major factors were the promotional work being done by the WA Industrial Training Advisory Council and the availability of subsidy payments to employers through the CRAFT scheme. Western Australia has had a greater pro rata percentage increase in apprenticeship numbers since 1974 than any other State. I might add we will need them with the numbers of people who will be coming in in the not-too-distant future.

## ALUMINA REFINERY: WAGERUP

### Sit-in Plan at Dam

5. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

On page 4 of today's issue of *The West Australian* under the heading "New Sit-in Plan After Court Win" where reference is made to the construction of a dam, would the Minister advise—

- (1) Does this construction work fall within the terms of the Alumina Refinery (Wagerup) Agreement Act?
- (2) If "Yes" to (1), was a permit issued for the work to proceed in accord with the terms of the agreement?
- (3) If no permit was issued, has the company breached the Act and, if so, will the Minister prosecute the company for the breach?
- (4) What is the purpose of the dam and has it in any way interfered with any of the natural watercourses?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The purpose of the dam is to provide water for the alumina refinery operations. By its very nature a dam must interfere with a natural watercourse.

## ROADS

### Servetus Street-Challenger Drive Link

6. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Did the Minister, at my request, meet representatives from a group of Servetus Street residents a few weeks ago?
- (2) Was there a full and frank discussion, and did the representatives make some request of the Minister?
- (3) Are those requests under consideration by the Minister?
- (4) Was it made clear at the time that the Government was proceeding to acquire land for a Servetus Street-Challenger Drive link?

- (5) Has the acquisition of the land altered in any way the stand taken, and undertakings given by the Government to Servetus Street residents in 1976, and since?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) As I recall, the main request made to me was that the Government should honour the undertaking it gave in 1976; namely, that Servetus Street would remain as a local road. I was only too pleased to give them that undertaking. Other matters of general concern to the residents were canvassed. I have given my attention to all matters discussed at that time.
- (4) I believe I was asked by one person involved in the Servetus Street Action Group whether the Government was in the process of acquiring Commonwealth-owned land for the link with Challenger Drive. My reply to that was that whilst I was not involved directly in those negotiations, I believed they were taking place. Again I reiterated the fact that the land purchase would make no difference to the undertaking given in 1976.
- (5) I believe that point has been covered in the answer to part (4).

## RAILWAYS

### *Cyclone Company Fencing*

7. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

I direct a question to the Minister for Transport. The question, of which he has received some notice, is as follows—

- (1) Who engaged Cyclone WA Ltd. to encircle railway lines, railway signals, and railway electricity poles bearing lights to illuminate the main line west of Perth city railway station?

- (2) Would the Minister agree this is a breach of the undertaking the chairman of the MTT gave the president and secretary of the joint railway executive that he would have further discussions before any work commenced?
- (3) Why were the safety regulations of the railway by-laws not carried out and district railway officers not advised of the work so that safety regulations could have been adhered to?
- (4) Why has it been necessary to call police officers onto railway property to supervise the operation of the erection of the fence and who authorised the police?
- (5) Is it the Government's intention to utilise the Police Force to see that their plans are implemented re discontinuance of Perth-Fremantle line and the building of a freight diversion line via Canning Vale?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (5) I regret that I have not had time to prepare a satisfactory answer. I ask the member to put the question on notice.

## JOHN GILL ADVERTISING

### *Takeover by D'Arcy MacManus and Masius*

8. Sir CHARLES COURT (Premier):

I want to honour a promise I made to the member for Gosnells when I answered question 564 on the 26th April. That question reads—

When does he expect to be able to provide me with the information promised in his answer to my question 2545 of 28th November, 1978?

The question 2545 of the 28th November, 1978, reads—

- (1) Is it a fact that the Eastern States advertising agency, D'Arcy MacManus and Masius, is planning to take over the Western Australian owned agency, John Gill Advertising, as reported in the *Advertising News* of 27th October, 1978?

- (2) Is D'Arcy MacManus and Masius owned by United Kingdom and United States interests?
- (3) Have any Government departments had an account with either of these agencies in the past four years?
- (4) If so, what are the details?
- (5) Do any Government departments or agencies have any plans to direct work to either of these agencies in the future?
- (6) If "Yes" to (5), what action does he plan to take in accordance with his recently stated policy on the production of television commercials for Western Australia's 150th Anniversary?

The information sought is as follows—

- (1) Yes.  
I am informed that D'Arcy MacManus and Masius own 60 per cent, and Gill and staff own 40 per cent.
- (2) I understand so.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The WA Arts Council engaged John Gill Advertising to prepare advertising for the council's touring department. The advertising was for a limited number of tours and related to the period the 1st July to the 30th October, 1976.
- (5) There are no current plans to direct work to either of the agencies in the future.
- (6) Not applicable.

#### FUEL: TAX

##### *Petrol and Diesel: Revenue*

9. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:  
My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Transport. It relates to question 796, in the answer to which the Minister has quoted 188.524 megalitres as the volume of duty-paid distillate consumed in Western Australia. The figures obtained by the National Party from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that the amount is in excess of 194 megalitres for the year ending the 31st December, 1978. As sales have been increasing at an estimated 10 per cent per annum, would he please explain the discrepancy

between his figures and our figures, as we were using the same source?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The answer I gave the House included the figures that were quoted and, as the member said, they were from the same source. The estimated growth to the 31st March is an estimate which has been supplied to me and included in the reply to the member.

#### ENTERTAINMENT: HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, PERTH CONCERT HALL, AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

##### *Management*

10. Mr TAYLOR, to the Premier:

I ask another question without notice of the Premier. I understand the question may have been phoned to his office, but perhaps it was fairly late. It is as follows—

- (1) Is it a fact that the Government is discussing with the Perth City Council the future management of the Entertainment Centre, Her Majesty's Theatre, and the Perth Concert Hall, as reported in the *Daily News* of the 8th May?
- (2) If "Yes" do these discussions indicate that TVW Enterprises will not have the management of Her Majesty's Theatre as earlier announced?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Here again I have not had the chance to study the question in detail. However, I can give the member the information he seeks.  
The discussions that have taken place between the Perth City Council and the State Government have been about the overall question of theatres as a result of a request for a deputation from the Perth City Council. These discussions have been about this general question, and not specifically about the management of any one venue.



## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### *Metal Slivers in Breakfast Cereal*

11. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:  
I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Health. The question refers to the article appearing on the front page of the *Daily News* tonight which is headed, "Toddlers 'nearly ate metal slivers'". I wish to ask the Minister—and I assume that he has asked his department to carry out an investigation—whether he will make sure that the investigation is given top priority, and whether he will make a preliminary report to this Parliament next Tuesday?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I will have the article examined, if indeed it falls within the jurisdiction of my portfolio. I shall have it investigated—

Mr Harman: It does not matter whether it does or not.

Mr YOUNG: At first glance, the question may arise whether it comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Consumer Affairs. However, either that Minister or I will provide the member for Maylands with an answer.

## PAY-ROLL TAX

### *Exemption: Ceiling*

12. Sir CHARLES COURT (Premier):

I wish to refer to the answer given to question 654 asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on the 2nd May. No doubt he has picked up the obvious typing error, but for the sake of the record I feel I should mention it. The question reads—

When was the current exemption ceiling applicable to pay-roll tax last adjusted?

The answer was as follows—

1st December, 1977 when it was increased to \$60 000, when it was estimated an additional 9 800 businesses became eligible for exemption.

The figure of 9 800 additional businesses which became eligible for exemption from pay-roll tax should have read 980.

No doubt the obvious error was noticed by the honourable member, especially when it is related to the total number of pay-roll taxpayers; but for the sake of the record I thought it should be formally corrected. Any inconvenience is regretted.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

719. *This question was postponed.*

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS: MOTOR VEHICLES

#### *Dealers: Prosecutions*

742. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many prosecutions were taken under the Used Car Dealers Act 1964 between 1964 and 1974?
- (2) How many were successful?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) No statistics are kept on this matter by the Crown Law Department.

### POLICE: SPECIAL BRANCH

#### *Members of Parliament: Files*

743. Mr BERTRAM, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is he still prepared to make available to any member of this House upon request from that member the Police special bureau file and records in respect of that member?
- (2) If "No" why?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) At no time have I indicated a personal preparedness to make available any Police Department files to any inquirer.

### WATER SUPPLIES: SALINITY

#### *Whittington Interceptor Salt Affected Land Treatment Society*

744. Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

If it is fact as reported in *The Western Farmer* of 19th April, 1979, that Professor John Holmes, of South Australia's Flinders University, has been invited here to review the Whittington Interceptor, Salt Affected Land Treatment Society and advise on its potential to control land and stream salinity, will the Minister please advise:

- (1) What are Professor Holmes' qualifications?
- (2) What will be his terms of reference?
- (3) Will he be examining other areas as well as the Batalling Creek project?
- (4) Will he be discussing Whittington Interceptor, Salt Affected Land Treatment Society methods with Mr Whittington and other farmers who have installed the system?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Professor Holmes is Professor of Earth Sciences at Flinders University. He holds the degrees of B.Sc. (Hons) from Sydney University and M.Sc. from Adelaide University.

From 1950 to 1971—Senior and then Chief Research Scientist, CSIRO.

1969 to date—Foundation Professor of Earth Sciences at Flinders University.

He has spent one year as research associate in soil physics at Cambridge University and six months as research associate at the Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, United Kingdom. He is a member of the water research and education committee of the Australian Water Resources Council and a member of the national research committee of the Water Research Foundation.

- (2) The terms of reference suggested to Professor Holmes are—
  - (a) Review the Whittington interceptor drain concept and advise on its potential to control land and stream salinity;
  - (b) having regard to the above, review the adequacy of the trial which is at present in course on Batalling Creek and advise on whether it is considered satisfactory to adequately test the system;
  - (c) to advise as to whether the present trial should be continued in its present form, modified, extended or abandoned and a new trial established;
  - (d) if the trial is to be modified or extended, or a new trial established indicate the form that such a trial would take;
  - (e) the estimated cost of undertaking the work recommended and the likely time before meaningful results will be obtained;
  - (f) provide a continuing review of any trial that proceeds.
- (3) The prime objective of Professor Holmes' brief is to evaluate the Whittington interceptor system to control stream salinity and in particular the trial at Batalling Creek. It is expected that this will necessitate visits to other areas.
- (4) Yes.

## FUEL

### Price Increase

745. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) In view of the recent increase of 2 cents per litre for all fuels in 200 litre containers and 2.5 cents per litre for aviation fuel in 200 litre containers, would he make available to me the file presented to the Prices Justification Tribunal by the oil companies in justification of their case for such an increase?

- (2) If not, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) No. The Prices Justification Tribunal is a Commonwealth instrumentality and I have no access to its files.

## TRANSPORT

### Surfboards

746. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Adverting to question 646 of 1979, can I assume from the answer that no charge will be made for surf boards carried by rail passengers travelling to Perth to connect with the bus service from the central bus station?

- (2) If not, what will be the situation?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.

## MINING

### Asbestos

747. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Mines:

When was the earliest date that Mines Department inspectors informed the department of the health hazards of mining and milling of asbestos at Wittenoom?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

See answer to question 644.

## MINING

### Asbestos

748. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Mines:

Adverting to question 644 of 1979, will he advise the procedure for the normal destruction of closed files?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The procedure for the normal destruction of files in respect of the type of files the Member is referring to is to destroy them five years after the last action on the file.

## NATURAL DISASTERS

### Earthquakes and Tremors

749. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Mines:

Adverting to question 582 of 1979, will he list the regions of this State which are the "most seismically stable in the world"?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Virtually all of Western Australia is in this category, as it lies wholly within a stable or "plate" section of the earth's crust. However, there are local zones of anomalously high seismic activity, and these are delineated on a map published in the annual report of the Geological Survey Branch of the Mines Department for 1971. The same zones, assessed by a different method, are also shown on a map included in record No. 1976/31 of the Commonwealth Bureau of Mineral Resources.

## HEALTH: SLOW LEARNING CHILDREN

### Assessment

750. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are there facilities at Port Hedland for the regular assessment of slow learning children?
- (2) If not, what arrangements are made by his department to allow parent and child to travel to Perth for regular assessments?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No facilities are available at Port Hedland for the regular assessment of slow learning children.
- (2) When the assessment of a child is considered necessary by the Director of Mental Health Services the cost of travel to Perth and return for parent and child is borne by the department.

## HEALTH

### Alcohol and Drug Authority: Anti-smoking Campaign

751. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact the Alcohol and Drug Authority is anticipating a campaign to stop smoking?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" will he further advise how much money is expected to be involved in such a campaign; and  
(b) from what source will the money be supplied?
- (3) (a) Can he also explain the terms of reference the Alcohol and Drug Authority has to plan for such a project; and

- (b) what expertise has it to carry out such a programme of public education against smoking?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) No, but in association with other organisations, consideration has been given to the development of a programme.
- (2) (a) It is not envisaged that there will be expenditure of Alcohol and Drug Authority funds in this programme;  
(b) not applicable.
- (3) (a) Under section 18, subsection (h) of the Alcohol and Drug Authority Act;  
(b) not applicable.

#### ENERGY: GAS

*Natural: Kenwick*

752. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) In view of the many enquiries being made in the Kenwick area as to when natural gas will be supplied for domestic purposes can he advise if it is anticipated that a natural gas main will be installed along Stafford Road, Kenwick?
- (2) If "Yes" when will such installation be commenced?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) All past inquiries received for gas supply to Stafford Road, Kenwick, have been outside the economic distance to extend the gas mains.  
Future mains extensions into the street will depend on inquiries received being economically justified.
- (2) Not applicable.

#### HAIRDRESSERS

*Industrial Advisory Board and Apprentices*

753. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) What functions does the industrial advisory board for the hairdressing trades have?
- (2) Whom does it advise?
- (3) Who are its current members and whom do they represent?
- (4) Is it a fact that hairdressing apprentices are no longer required to submit themselves to annual examinations?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4)—  
(a) when was this decision taken;  
(b) why; and  
(c) did the board support the change?

- (6) Has he received representations to reintroduce annual examinations for hairdressing apprentices?

(7) If so, from whom and when?

- (8) Is it a fact that the registration board unanimously recommended the reintroduction of annual examinations approximately 12 months ago?

(9) What action has he taken on this advice?

(10) What action is proposed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The Industrial Training Advisory Board's function is to advise the Industrial Training Advisory Council on matters relating to the training of apprentice hairdressers and to consider all matters affecting the training of those apprentices.

(3) Mr E. H. Smith, Acting Director, Division of Industrial Training, Chairman;

Messrs M. Meehan, A. Dilallo and Mrs I. Cully representing the Confederation of WA Industry;

Messrs R. Backshall, G. Dunstan and Mrs N. Roberts representing the Trades and Labor Council of WA;

Mr J. Hainsworth representing the Technical Education Division of the Education Department.

- (4) Annual practical examinations are not required except in the final year; however apprentices are still required to submit themselves for annual examinations conducted by the Technical Education Division.

- (5) (a) Annual practical examinations for hairdressing apprentices were discontinued following the introduction of the Apprenticeship Regulations (1972) on 1st January, 1973;

(b) these regulations specified that where an apprenticeship officer had been appointed to a trade, apprentices in that trade were only required to submit themselves to annual examinations conducted by the TED except in the final year;

(c) no, but a change in examination policy was recommended by the Industrial Training Advisory Council which the Government accepted.

- (6) and (7) Approaches have been received from persons within the industry.

(8) If the Member is referring to the Hairdressers Registration Board, the answer is "No".

- (9) and (10) This matter is currently being considered by the Industrial Training Advisory Council.

## ROAD

### *Great Eastern Highway*

754. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it proposed to replace lane dividing line markings on the recently completed sections of resealing on Great Eastern Highway?
- (2) If so, when?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Line markings have already been repainted on two sections and centreline markings on the third section between Kalamunda Road and Cornwall Street. However, the lane markings on the third section are being replaced, under private contract, with raised markers and it is anticipated that this will be completed within two to three weeks depending upon weather conditions.

- (c) In many awards, no junior rates are prescribed and the adult wage is paid (building trades, electrical contracting industry, commercial travellers). In others, adult rates must be paid before age 21 (restaurants—age 18; transport workers—age 20; hotel and tavern workers—age 19 and 20).

In my experience—and especially in conversation with parents of children who have reached, or are approaching the age when they seek employment—most parents would be happier to see employers able to employ and train additional junior workers on a basis that is fair to the junior and makes it economically attractive to the employer, having regard for the cost of training and gaining experience. In other words, it is more important to have additional young people gainfully employed and receiving experience, even if the wage is lower, than to have fewer employed because of an unrealistic wage structure.

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

### *Inexperienced Junior Workers*

755. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Was he factually reported in *The West Australian* of 5th May, 1979 as having said that people wanted an end to the overpayment of inexperienced junior workers because this made it harder for young people to get jobs?
- (2) Does his Government support this proposal?
- (3) Can he provide examples of junior workers who are inexperienced and overpaid either by job or industry classification?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. The report was in *The West Australian* of the 7th May, 1979.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) There are three elements in the overpayment:

- (a) In the last 15 years junior rates have been increasingly expressed as a fixed proportion of total adult rates, and not as a proportion of basic or minimum rates.
- (b) Because of the fixed proportions and the rapid escalation of wages generally from 1973 to 1975, the relative cost of employing juniors rose as employers were still obliged to pay the fixed costs associated with employment.

Juniors, in general, are not seen as being as productive as adults, and employers were placed in the position of seeking to employ the more efficient workers.

## WATER SUPPLIES: CATCHMENT AREAS

### *Mundaring Weir, Denmark, Kent, and Warren Rivers*

756. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Did the Western Australian Water Resources Council make recommendations to the Government regarding the Mundaring Weir, Denmark River catchment areas, and the water reserves of the Kent and Warren rivers prior to the introduction of the amendment to the Country Areas Water Supply Act, which became effective from December 1978?
- (2) If "Yes" what were the recommendations of the council?
- (3) Will the Minister table a copy of the report and recommendations of the Western Australian Water Resources Council on the above catchments?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The Western Australian Water Resources Council made specific recommendations only in respect of the Mundaring Weir and Denmark River catchment areas.
- (2) and (3) The Water Resources Council did not prepare a report on clearing controls on catchments but its five recommendations are as follows—
  - (i) The Minister be advised that the potential salinity rises from future (predominantly agricultural) clearing of land in many catchments of the south west, is an extremely serious problem on which there is a need for immediate and positive action.

- (ii) Because it has become apparent that the costs in terms of compensation for restricting clearing of land are so much less than other control mechanisms available, for example desalination, reafforestation and engineering mechanisms, immediate steps should be taken to determine the most appropriate means of introducing clearing controls where appropriate, and to initiate design and drafting of appropriate legislation.
- (iii) The Helena and Denmark Rivers, as developed water supply catchments, should be given highest priority, but these are not the only catchments requiring prompt action, and there is an urgent need for the Public Works Department and the Metropolitan Water Board to pursue whatever studies are necessary to determine priorities among the other rivers listed in table 8 of the Public Works Department report.
- (iv) Because of the risk of widespread acceleration of clearing, such as occurred in the Collic catchment prior to proclamation of legislation, there is a need for these matters to be regarded as highly confidential at this time.
- (v) Because there will be a need for further discussions before legislation controls could be brought down, there is a need to consider legislating for a 12-month moratorium on clearing within a number of catchments listed in table 8. Further assessment of the priorities is desirable to determine where the moratorium may apply.

#### WATER SUPPLIES: CATCHMENT AREAS

##### *Land Clearing: Moratorium*

757. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:
- (1) In its recommendations and report to the Government prior to the introduction of the amendment to the Country Areas Water Supply Act of December, 1978, did the Western Australian Water Resources Committee recommend that a moratorium period on clearing prior to the introduction of clearing control regulations be introduced?
  - (2) If "Yes" what period of moratorium was suggested?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The Water Resources Council recommended that there was a need to consider legislating for a moratorium on clearing.
- (2) 12 months.

#### WATER SUPPLIES: SALINITY

##### *Warren River*

758. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:
- (1) Is the report on salinity in the Warren River which he indicated in his letter to me of the 16th February, 1979, was still being compiled, now completed?
  - (2) If "No" when is it expected this report will be finished?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The report dealing with the salinity of the Warren River is still being prepared.
- (2) The report will be available in June.

#### RAILWAYS

##### *Library Books*

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

Will he advise if it is the Government's intention to remove the concessions available to State Library branches in Western Australia for the transport of books on Westrail?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Westrail is currently reviewing all concessions. Should a recommendation be received to vary any existing concession, this will be considered by Government on its merits.

#### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

##### *New Conventions*

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

What action is proposed by the Government in respect of the two new conventions adopted by the 64th session of the International Labour Conference?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The existing law and practice in Western Australia in relation to the two conventions is under consideration to ascertain if this State could formally agree to ratification of the conventions by the Commonwealth.

# INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

## *Western Australian Delegate*

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

- (1) Who represented Western Australia at the 64th session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June, 1978?
- (2) How long was the delegate absent?
- (3) Did the delegate go anywhere else overseas immediately prior to or subsequent to the 64th session?
- (4) What was the cost of the trip?
- (5) Was the delegate accompanied by any other officer?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Although the department's annual report for 1977-78 showed that a WA representative attended the 64th session of the ILO conference, the WA representative actually accompanied the Australian delegation to Geneva in June, 1977, which strictly speaking was in the 1976-77 year, not 1977-78.
- (2) If that is the delegate referred to, he was absent from the 16th May to the 25th July, during which time he took some annual leave.
- (3) Yes. Subsequently to Canada on a short visit.
- (4) The Commonwealth was responsible for the trip to and from Geneva. A deviation of the return ticket through Canada together with other travelling and accommodation expenses cost the State \$1 204.
- (5) No.

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

## *Advisory Committee*

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

What firm policy commitments have been made as a result of the three meetings held in 1978 of the Department of Labour advisory committee?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

DOLAC comprises heads of Labour Departments in each State and the Commonwealth. Conferences are an exchange of information and discuss problems common to the States. It is an advisory and recommending committee only.

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

## *Industrial Inspectorate*

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

- (1) Now that two additional inspectors have been appointed to the industrial inspectorate, how many such inspectors are there?
- (2) Where is this listed in the department's annual report?
- (3) Does the final paragraph under the heading "Industrial Inspectorate" indicate that only one prosecution was pursued by the Department of Labour before the industrial magistrate or was the one cited only one of many?
- (4) If so, how does this square with the 66 per cent increase in the number of complaints?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Senior industrial inspector, 1; industrial inspectors, 3; temporary assistant, 1.
- (2) The inspectors are included in the figure for head office—clerical officers at page 26 of the annual report.
- (3) Two prosecutions were commenced before the industrial magistrate.
- (4) The increase of 66 per cent in the number of complaints is reflected by the increase of 80 per cent in the amount recovered on behalf of employees. It is rarely necessary to prosecute to enable recovery to be made.

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

## *Industrial Inspectorate*

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

With respect to the 787 premises visited by the industrial inspectorate which took 281½ hours, making an average of 21.4 minutes per visit, does this time include travelling time from town to town and from place to place?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Yes. A large proportion of these inspections are in a specific area, may not require a great deal of time and are often in adjacent premises.

# RAILWAYS: FREIGHT RATES

## *Grain and Superphosphate*

765. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does he anticipate any increases in Westrail bulk freight rates for grain or superphosphate in the near or medium future?

- (2) If so, what are the anticipated increases?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Westrail is currently examining increases and decreases to rates applicable to all commodities but no decisions have been made at this stage.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND BOARDS

### *Dissolution, Amalgamation, and Replacement*

766. Mr GRILL, to the Treasurer:

What Government departments, boards or agencies have been dissolved, amalgamated or replaced over the last ten years?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The import of this question is not fully understood.

Unless the Member can clarify what he has in mind and the reasons why he seeks the information over a 10-year period, it is felt no good purpose would be served in diverting the necessary staff to have the required research undertaken.

## ABATTOIRS: MIDLAND JUNCTION AND ROBB JETTY

### *Advantages and Disadvantages*

767. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What advantages or disadvantages did the Robb Jetty abattoir have over the Midland abattoir that made the Government determined to close the Midland abattoir?

Mr OLD replied:

The decision to place Midland abattoir on a "care and maintenance" basis was made on economic grounds. Robb Jetty abattoir is more economic to operate in the current situation of low numbers of stock available for slaughter.

## DRAINAGE

### *Midvale*

768. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that each winter the area adjacent to Beaconsfield Avenue, Midvale, is subject to heavy flooding that is possibly made doubly worse by the septic leach drains polluting the flood waters?

- (2) What action is contemplated by his department to alleviate this problem prior to the forthcoming winter months in view of the fact that the department has now accepted responsibility for an overall drainage scheme for the area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Drainage in this locality is a local authority matter.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

### *Western Oil & Refining Co. Pty. Ltd.*

769. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Have approaches been made to his department by Western Oil and Refining Co. Pty. Ltd., Bellevue, with a view to the department assisting that company to re-locate its present factory to allow the company to continue to treat waste oil which at present is being disposed of at tip sites?
- (2) If approaches have been made by the company concerned, will he advise what is the present position regarding the problems associated with Western Oil and Refining Co. Pty. Ltd's efforts to re-locate?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Western Oil & Refining Co. Pty. Ltd. has ceased oil re-refining at Bellevue until the result of an appeal to the commissioner for Public Health against non renewal of the company's offensive trades license is known.
- The company has been assisted in its studies of likely relocation sites; however it has now deferred any decision to relocate until the appeal to the Commissioner for Public Health is finalised.

## HOUSING PENSIONERS

### *Balga*

770. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it a fact that pensioners are being progressively moved out of single bed-sitter units at 8 Garrick Way, Balga?
- (2) If "Yes" can he say why this action is being taken and to what type of tenant the units are to be re-allocated?
- (3) Is it intended that new tenants will be moved in prior to alternative accommodation being made available to the remaining age pensioners?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.



**ACCENT CLEANING COMPANY***Complaints*

771. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Can the Minister say whether the Corporate Affairs office has had any complaints about operations of the Accent Cleaning Company?
- (2) If "Yes" what has been the nature of the complaints and what, if any, action is being contemplated?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) No. A complaint which, however, failed to disclose any breach of the legislation administered by the Corporate Affairs Office, was received in relation to a firm carrying on business under a somewhat similar name.

addresses in Girrawheen are currently vacant:

- (a) 83 Mirrabooka Avenue;
- (b) 22 Stebbing Way;
- (c) 11 and 28 Tendring Way;
- (d) 1/9 and 2/9 Westbrook Way;
- (e) 72/6 Amberton Lane;
- (f) 13D, 25B and 28 Ferrara Way;
- (g) 21A and 51B Connell Way?

(2) With respect to these properties, can he say:

- (a) how long each unit has been vacant;
- (b) what is the size of each unit;
- (c) which of these units are currently under offer;
- (d) which of these units are awaiting maintenance and when it is anticipated that this maintenance will be completed?

Mr RIDGE replied:

**HOUSING: RENTAL***Girrawheen*

772. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it a fact that State Housing Commission rental units at the following

Address of Accommodation				Under maint.	Under offer	No. of offers	Period vacant
1.	3 bedroom house						
	Lot 1281 (83) Mirrabooka Avenue, Girrawheen	....	....		Yes	2	4 weeks
2.	3 bedroom town house						
	Lot 1081 (Unit 22) Stebbing Way, Girrawheen	....	....	Yes			2 weeks
3.	3 bedroom house						
	Lot 1188 (11) Tendring Way, Girrawheen	....	....			1	Accepted by applicant (5 weeks vacant)
4.	4 bedroom house						
	Lot 1244 (28) Tendring Way, Girrawheen	....	....	Yes			3 days
5.	3 bedroom town house						
	Lot 626 (9) Unit 1 Westbrook Way, Girrawheen	....	....		Yes	2	4 months
6.	3 bedroom town house						
	Lot 626 (9) Unit 2 Westbrook Way, Girrawheen	....	....	Yes		1	4 weeks
7.	3 bedroom town house						
	Lot 76 (Unit 6) Amberton Lane, Girrawheen...	....	....	Yes			2 days
8.	3 bedroom town house						
	Lot 1077 (Unit 13D) Ferrara Way, Girrawheen	....	....	Yes			2 weeks
9.	3 bedroom town house						
	Lot 547/8 (Unit 25B) Ferrara Way, Girrawheen	....	....			3	Accepted by applicant (6 weeks vacant)
10.	3 bedroom house						
	Lot 575 (28) Ferrara Way, Girrawheen	....	....	Yes			6 weeks
11.	3 bedroom Duplex						
	Lot 531A (21A) Connell Way, Girrawheen	....	....		Yes	1	6 weeks
12.	3 bedroom duplex						
	Lot 552 (51B) Connell Way, Girrawheen	....	....			1	Accepted by applicant (6 weeks vacant)

In regard to properties under maintenance, the time to complete will vary according to the work to be done. On average experience this is likely to be three to four weeks.

## HOUSING

*Homeless Young People*

773. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Can he say whether the committee established to research the problem of accommodation for homeless young people has yet completed a report?
- (2) If "No" when is it anticipated that such a report will be available?
- (3) Will the report be available to the public?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes. The committee has completed a report but this is only an interim report.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The report will not be made available to the public because it is only an interim report. It is anticipated a final report will be available in about six months time.

## HEALTH: MENTAL

*Act: Amendment*

774. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

Can he say what stage has been reached in the review of the Mental Health Act and when a Bill will be brought before Parliament?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Recommendations for amendments to the Mental Health Act were recently forwarded to me by the Director, Mental Health Services.

These proposals are receiving my consideration and at this stage I am not able to indicate when a Bill will be brought before Parliament.

## ABORIGINES: HOUSING

*WAIT-Aid Report*

775. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

In answer to a question without notice on 17th October, 1978, regarding the WAIT-Aid Report on Aboriginal Housing, he indicated that when he had read the report he would see whether further action was necessary. Can he now say what developments have occurred since his reading of the report?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I have received further advice on this report and as a result of this advice I have decided to adhere to my original decision of not agreeing to publication of the report.

EDUCATION: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND  
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA*Social Work Students*

776. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can he say how many students are currently enrolled in full-time courses provided by the social work departments at the Western Australian Institute of Technology and the University of Western Australia?
- (2) What was the number of social work students who graduated from each institution in 1978?
- (3) What is the anticipated number of enrolments in social work courses at each institution in each of the next three years?
- (4) What is the anticipated number of social work students who will be graduating from each institution in each of the next three years?
- (5) How many social workers have resigned from the Department of Community Welfare in each of the last five years?
- (6) Is it likely that places will be available for all students graduating in the next three years?
- (7) If "No" to (6), what measures are being taken to see that social work graduates are not going to be facing possible serious unemployment problems over the next few years?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- |  | Full-time | Part-time | Total |      |      |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------|------|------|
| (1) Enrolments in 1979:  |           |           |       |      |      |
| U.W.A. (Includes post-graduate and undergraduate courses)  | 79        | 21        | 100   |      |      |
| W.A.I.T.   | 213       | 54        | 267   |      |      |
| (2) Graduates completing their course at the end of 1978:  |           |           |       |      |      |
| U.W.A.   |           |           | 29    |      |      |
| W.A.I.T.   |           |           | 33    |      |      |
| (3) Estimated Total Enrolments:  | 1980      | 1981      | 1982  |      |      |
| U.W.A. (Includes post-graduate and undergraduate courses)  | 87        | 89        | 89    |      |      |
| W.A.I.T.   | 272       | 278       | 280   |      |      |
| (4) Estimated graduates completing their course in—  | 1979      | 1980      | 1981  |      |      |
| U.W.A.   | 37        | 31        | 31    |      |      |
| W.A.I.T.   | 40        | 50        | 60    |      |      |
| (5) Social workers resigned from Community Welfare in—   | 1974      | 1975      | 1976  | 1977 | 1978 |
|  | 12        | 10        | 10    | 14   | 13   |
| (6) No statistics available. The general expectation is that places will be available for students graduating from courses in social work in the next three years. |           |           |       |      |      |
| (7) Not applicable.  |           |           |       |      |      |

**HOUSING***Koondoola*

777. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it fact that following a letter on 23rd February, 1979 from the State Housing Commission to the Secretary of the Board of the Church of the Nazarene seeking further information about the board's wish to obtain lot 210 Meldrum Way, Koondoola, as a church site, and a reply from the board on 9th March, 1979 setting out its position, without further communication, the Commission proceeded to erect a number of houses on the site?
- (2) Is it a fact that negotiations on the site between the church and the commission have been proceeding for a number of years and that the Shire of Wanneroo had approved its use as a church site?
- (3) Can he explain why the commission did not even extend to the church the courtesy of a letter advising of its sudden decision to use the site for housing development?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) Due to an inexplicable omission to connect two related files, action on a subdivision for housing proceeded without reference to the church site negotiations.

The commission is now urgently examining its land holdings in the general area with a view to identifying a suitable alternate site to offer in further negotiation with the Church of the Nazarene.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT***Fruit Juice Extraction Plant*

778. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is there any prospect of Bulmer Limited or any other company establishing a fruit juice extraction plant in the lower south-west?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" what is the name of the firm involved; and  
(b) what is the state of negotiations at this time?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Studies are proceeding and certain companies are involved but because of the commercial negotiations I am not in a position to nominate the particular companies concerned at this time.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT***Wood Chipping Industry*

779. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Further to question 718 of 1979, with regard to forestry operations, how many hectares were clear felled in the year immediately prior to the commencement of the wood chipping industry?
- (2) How many hectares were clear felled for the year ended 30th June, 1978?
- (3) How many hectares were clear felled in the last month for which figures are available?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) 1 141 hectares.
- (2) 2 294 hectares.
- (3) Statistics are not recorded on a monthly basis. The most recent annual periodic total to December, 1978, is 2 747 hectares.

Area statistics are not directly comparable as they do not take into account variation in forest composition.

**WATER SUPPLIES***Cue*

780. Mr COYNE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has there been any serious attempt in recent times to improve the quality of the town's water supply in Cue?
- (2) (a) Has the Public Health Department tested samples from the Cue water supply within the last 12 months; and  
(b) if so, what were the results of the tests?
- (3) Should the Nallan water supply become suspect in terms of water quality, would development of the "millisoak" aquifer bring about more beneficial service to the people of Cue?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes, exploratory drilling has been undertaken.
- (2) (a) Yes.  
(b) The analyses showed an average salinity of approximately 1 900 mg/litre TDS which is fairly normal for the Nallan source.
- (3) Water in the general area of Milly Spring is of similar quality to that of the existing Nallan Well. Milly Spring has no advantage over the Nallan source.

## ROAD

*Port Hedland-Broome Road*

781. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the likely allocation of funds for the completion of the Port Hedland-Broome macadamised road?
- (2) What is the now contemplated finishing date for this road?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The estimated funds required to complete the sealing of the Great Northern Highway between Port Hedland and Broome is \$30m based on current prices and allowing for funds made available in the 1978/79 financial year.
- (2) It is anticipated that the road will be completed to the 'black top' stage by early 1981.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

*Contracts*

782. Mr WATT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) For contracts let by the Public Works Department outside the metropolitan area, what is the limit below which a 5 per cent preference is given to local tenderers?
- (2) How long has the limit been at its present level?
- (3) With inflationary trends experienced in recent years, has the limit lost its relativity?
- (4) As an increasing number of contracts in country areas are being let to metropolitan contractors, will the Minister recommend to the Government that the limit be raised to \$50 000?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$20 000.
- (2) Since it was introduced in 1973.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The question of preference available to contractors in country areas is at present under consideration.

## EDUCATION: SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

*York*

783. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) For what purpose has the demountable classroom been placed at the York Junior High School?
- (2) Is the demountable room to be a permanent or temporary fixture?

(3) Is it proposed to resite the York Primary school this year?

(4) If answer to (3) is "Yes" when and where will the school be resited?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) There is no demountable room at the York District High School and it is expected that present permanent accommodation will be adequate for 1979.

## RAILWAYS

*Advertising Signs*

784. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that the Commissioner for Railways has been written to by the Guildford community development council complaining about the proliferation of advertising signs on railway property in the town area of Guildford?
- (2) If "Yes" would he have the offending signs removed and thus preserve the historical atmosphere of Guildford which is possibly marred by these examples of man's visual pollution?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, but Westrail in conjunction with Australian Posters Pty. Ltd. have been progressively reducing the number of advertising signs on railway property including the Guildford area.

## PARKS AND RESERVES ACT

*Reprinting*

785. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

Would the Minister have the Parks and Reserves Act, 1895-1976 consolidated and reprinted?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Reprint was approved 31st January, 1979 and has been available from the Parliamentary Papers Office since 24th March, 1979.

## WATER SUPPLIES: RATES

*Non-payment*

786. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

Would the Minister consider stopping the present practice of disconnecting water services to consumers' residences because of the failure by the consumer to pay moneys owing to the department because the disconnection of the

services places a burden upon the family unit and in particular any young children involved, and instead institute proceedings for recovery of the debt through the normal processes of the local courts?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No. Those who won't pay accounts place an undue burden on those who do.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

### *Electoral Provisions*

787. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Who were the members of the committee appointed by the previous Minister for Local Government to inquire into and report upon the electoral provisions of the Local Government Act?
- (2) What interests did each member represent?
- (3) What were the terms of reference of the inquiry?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) A committee was appointed in 1970 by the Hon. L. A. Logan, when Minister for Local Government, at the request of the Local Government Association to review the provisions of Part IV of the Local Government Act.

This Committee comprised:—

Mr E. Clark, Local Government Association.

Mr A. A. Mills, Country Shire Councils Association.

Mr G. O. Edwards, Town Clerk, City of Perth.

Mr A. E. White, Secretary, Local Government Association and Country Town Councils Association.

R. C. Paust, Secretary for Local Government.

A draft report of this committee made in 1972 was circulated to various interests for comment. Subsequently a working party was appointed in 1977 by Hon. E. C. Rushton to examine the previous recommendations and to further examine the provisions of Part IV.

This Working Party comprised:—

Messrs R. C. Paust and J. R. Watson, Local Government Department.

R. Dawson, D. Cuthbertson, D. Walker and L. Baker, Institute of Municipal Administration.

R. Coffey, Secretary, Local Government Association and Country Town Councils Association.

## FISHERIES: ROCK LOBSTERS

### *Offal*

788. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Health.

- (1) What conditions are required in seeing that crayfish offal is adequately buried?
- (2) Is his department satisfied that adequate steps are taken to see that crayfish offal is adequately disposed of in the Geraldton area?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The criteria for disposal is by the sanitary landfill technique.
- (2) No. I am aware that the method of disposal of crayfish offal in Geraldton has deteriorated and that action is being taken to upgrade it.

## TRAFFIC: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

### *Underpass: West Coast Highway*

789. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that an underpass under the West Coast Highway is to be constructed between Sorrento and Mullaloo?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the reason and what criteria are used to establish priority?
- (3) Is he aware of the repeated representations I have made to have an underpass or overpass provided on Wanneroo Road in the Wanneroo townsite?
- (4) Will he advise what positive steps are being taken to ensure a safe pedestrian separation in Wanneroo Road in the Wanneroo townsite to alleviate what is possibly a hazardous situation?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Prior to the extension of the West Coast Highway northwards in October, 1971 the National Fitness Council (now the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation) had direct access from their reserve to the foreshore.

Agreement was reached at the time with the then council for the provision of a pedestrian underpass when the reserve was put into effective use. An investigation last year revealed that the camp centres were now fully operative and that the underpass should be installed.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) It is considered that the provision of a dual carriageway and guard controlled school crossing has provided an adequate level of safety for pedestrians in the Wanneroo townsite.

## LAND

*Woodman Point*

790. Mr TAYLOR, to the Premier:

- (1) With respect to that part of Woodman's Point presently owned by the Australian Government, on what date is it expected that ownership will be transferred to the State?
- (2) What is the agreed sale price of each section?
- (3) Will payment be made from Treasury, Metropolitan Region Planning Authority or from what other source?
- (4) Once the respective lots are under effective ownership of the Government, which department or authority will have initial control?
- (5) Has the Government any plans to offer any part of the land or transfer any part of the land to the Town of Cockburn?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) 1st July 1979.
- (2) The sum of \$2.5 m. is the price for the whole land holding of approximately 109 ha, and the improvements.
- (3) Treasury.
- (4) and (5) Not yet determined.

## SMALL BUSINESSES

*Recommendation by Advisory Service*

791. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is it a fact that the small business advisory service recommends small firms requiring specialist assistance to businesses in private enterprise?
- (2) How many small firms were recommended to specific businesses for specialist advice and assistance in—
  - (a) 1975-76;
  - (b) 1976-77;
  - (c) 1977-78?
- (3) What are the names of the businesses to which each of the small firms were recommended in—
  - (a) 1975-76;
  - (b) 1976-77;
  - (c) 1977-78?
- (4) How many small firms were recommended to each business identified in (3) in—
  - (a) 1975-76;
  - (b) 1976-77;
  - (c) 1977-78?
- (5) What officer was responsible for each recommendation?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No recommendations are or have ever been made in this respect. If any small business specifically asked the bureau for the name of private consultants to be approached by that small business, the bureau gave a number of names of such professionals for the small business to choose from. It was emphasized, however, that this was not a recommendation only an information sheet about some existing professional advisors who are believed to be willing to render their services even on a small scale.
- (2) to (5) Not applicable.

## HOSPITAL

*Wanneroo*

792. Mr NANOVICH, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can he advise when the Wanneroo Hospital is expected to be completed and operational?
- (2) (a) Will applications for nursing staff be called through the media; and  
(b) if so, can he advise the approximate date?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The expected date of commissioning is 23rd May, 1980.
- (2) (a) Yes.  
(b) Senior nursing staff—early February, 1980.  
Other categories nursing staff—April, 1980.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire*

793. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is it a fact that in September, 1978 the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale initiated urban farm land rating contrary to solicitors' advice?
- (2) (a) Is it a fact that in December 1978 the shire clerk and the shire engineer resigned simultaneously both submitting written reasons to the council and to the Minister for Local Government;  
(b) will she table the letters to the Minister?
- (3) Is it a fact that in January, 1979 a petition was signed by over 260 rate-payers petitioning the Minister to—
  - (a) appoint an independent person to carry out an investigation into urban farm land and the methods adopted by the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale;

- (b) investigate reasons for the sudden joint resignation of the two senior officers—pointing out that the apparent inability of the shire to keep executive officers was not conducive to stable local government?
- (4) Is it a fact that the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale has had the following resignations:
  - (a) March, 1977: shire clerk and shire planner (joint resignation);
  - (b) July, 1977: senior clerk;
  - (c) August, 1978: senior clerk;
  - (d) November, 1978: shire clerk and shire engineer;
  - (e) March, 1979: shire planner?
- (5) Is it a fact that in December, 1978 and January, 1979 two motions were put in council which were to request the Minister to appoint an independent enquiry into the urban farm land system in the shire?
- (6) Is it a fact that both times this was defeated by one vote with four councillors for the enquiry and five against?
- (7) Is it a fact that the five councillors against the enquiry are direct beneficiaries of the rating system which saves them in excess of \$5 000 in rates?
- (8) Is it a fact that Councillor Kargotich is quoted in the council minutes as having said: "It would be politically unwise for the Minister to interfere in any actions of this Council"?
- (9) With regard to the resignation of the shire clerk in November, 1978, is it a fact that the name of his successor was public knowledge even before he resigned?
- (10) (a) Is it a fact that a number of councillors had already interviewed the successor (the present shire clerk) with a view to him taking on the position as soon as a resignation could be arranged;
- (b) who were the interviewing councillors?
- (11) (a) Has the council of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale given her a firm assurance that they have satisfied that all declarations now comply with the Local Government Act; and
- (b) have the council's solicitors confirmed this?
- (12) Can she advise where ratepayers may secure financial assistance to take an action against the council's decision?
- (13) Is she aware that current council/staff relationship is seemingly at rock bottom?
- (14) Will she initiate an immediate enquiry into the problems being faced by the staff and ratepayers of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Questions (1), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (10) relate to events that are said to have occurred at the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale but which are not necessarily contained in the records of the Department of Local Government.

I am therefore in a position to provide the following answers only:—

- (2) (a) Copies of the Shire Clerk's and Shire Engineer's letters of resignation, both of which were effective from December 1978, and both of which gave reasons for resignation, were forwarded to me by the resigning Shire Clerk.
- (b) No.
- (3) (a) and (b) A petition of that nature was received.
- (4) Departmental records indicate the following:—
  - (i) the Shire Clerk resigned in about March, 1977.
  - (ii) a classified clerical officer resigned in about August, 1978.
  - (iii) the Shire Clerk and Shire Engineer resigned in December, 1978.
  - (iv) the Shire Planner resigned in March, 1979.
- (9) Not as far as I am aware.
- (11) (a) and (b) The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale was requested by me to provide an assurance that it was satisfied that all urban farmland declarations complied with the provisions of the Local Government Act. That assurance is still awaited.
- (12) No.
- (13) No, but I was aware of earlier difficulties in this regard.
- (14) I will follow-up the question of urban farmland rating. However, I would need to be supplied with specific details of any other current problems before deciding whether any action on my part was warranted.

## HEALTH

### *Mandurah Health Centre*

794. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware of dissatisfaction in the Mandurah area with medical facilities?
- (2) Has he received complaints that the Mandurah health centre does not offer an adequate weekend and emergency

service and that Mandurah people have to go to Pinjarra Hospital or seek attention from a Pinjarra doctor when the Mandurah health centre is closed?

- (3) Does the State Government own the Mandurah health centre premises?
- (4) Is there anything in the terms under which space at the Mandurah health centre is leased by which occupants can be required to provide an adequate after hours medical service?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I am not aware of any general dissatisfaction. In fact, dissatisfaction with the medical facilities in Mandurah would appear to be minimal since the advent of the Community Health Centre.
- (2) I do not believe there have been any recent complaints and I understand that the Murray Medical Group maintains a doctor on-call when the health centre is closed.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.

#### COCKBURN SOUND: JERVOISE BAY

##### *"James Matthews"*

795. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) With respect to the vessel *"James Matthews"* which foundered in Jervoise Bay early last century, on what date did the vessel founder?
- (2) Was the vessel believed to be a former slave carrier?
- (3) Is it believed that a number of passengers and crew, at least 40 in number who lost their lives at the time, are buried on the shores of Jervoise Bay?
- (4) If "Yes" is it considered a possibility that the remains are likely to be disturbed and/or exhumed should development proceed on the shores of the Bay?
- (5) Who is considered to be the owner of the hull of the vessel?
- (6) What is being done to preserve the hull of the vessel?
- (7) Has the hull been declared an historic wreck under section 5(1) of the Marine Archaeology Act of 1973 or any other Act?
- (8) If "No" to (7), why not?
- (9) How close to the hull is Cockburn Cement dredging spoil?
- (10) How close has the company dredged?
- (11) Is it considered that such dredging is causing or has caused damage to the vessel's remains?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The *James Matthews* foundered on the morning of 23rd July, 1841, on the north of Woodman's Point which is north of Jervoise Bay.
- (2) The *James Matthews* was a slave ship named *Don Francisco* in the 1830's prior to capture by the British Navy and its condemnation and re-registration as a merchant vessel.
- (3) and (4) No. None of the passengers or crew was lost. However, a Fremantle fisherman who had sheltered on the *James Matthews* overnight, was drowned. The body of the fisherman was washed ashore south of Clarence and buried on the beach in the tide zone. The exact location is not known.
- (5) The remains of the vessel are under the control of the Commonwealth Government in accordance with the provisions of The Historic Shipwrecks Act, 1976, having been declared an "historic shipwreck" under section 5(1) of that Act.
- (6) The hull was covered with sand after excavation work carried out by the WA Museum in 1977. The sand protects the hull on the seabed.
- (7) Yes, see (5) above.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) Some spoil (fine sediment) drifts across the wreck site and settles on it. This does no damage to the wreck.
- (10) Since discovery in 1973, there has been no dredging within 100 metres of the site. Cockburn Cement has, in fact, been most co-operative throughout the Museum's operations.
- (11) Current dredging has caused no damage to the vessel's remains.

#### FUEL: TAX

##### *Petrol and Diesel: Revenue*

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

How much does the Government estimate that it will raise in the 1979-80 year from—

- (a) the levy on petrol;
  - (b) the levy on diesel;
- which it proposes to introduce through the legislation currently before the Legislative Assembly?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The amount of revenue estimated to be raised is based on licence fees calculated on a flat fee of \$500 plus an additional fee based on:

- (a) petrol—\$12.8 m.



(b) road use, diesel fuel—5.7 m. which have been wholesaled in the 12 months period ending 31st March 1979.

On this basis the total is \$18.5 m. plus the revenue from the flat fee licences. However, these amounts must be offset against the concessions in vehicle licence fees.

## FARMERS

### *Carrying Businesses*

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

What is the number of farmers (actual or estimated) in Western Australia who operate carrying businesses as well as farming operations?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

This information is not known.

## TRANSPORT: TAXIS

### *Railwaymen at Bridgetown*

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

- (1) Is it proposed to terminate all or any of the taxi services provided to convey railwaymen from Bridgetown to their place of work commencement at Manjimup?
- (2) If "Yes" will he provide full details of what is intended?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Those employees who transferred from Bridgetown to Manjimup on 1st February 1977 had this service terminated on 30th April 1979. Those who transferred on 1st January 1978 will have this arrangement terminated on 31st December 1979.

The determinate nature of this special travel concession was advised to the two unions concerned in January, 1978.

## ROADS: ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

### *Stock Transporters*

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

How many stock transporters in Western Australia currently pay road maintenance tax on the trucks which they operate?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Section 6 (2) of the Road Maintenance (Contributions) Act provides that the Act does not apply to a commercial goods vehicle while being used solely for the carriage of livestock.

## STOCK: CATTLE, SHEEP, LAMBS, AND PIGS

### *Number Sold by Auction*

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

What was the total number, actual or estimated, of

(a) cattle;

(b) sheep;

(c) lambs;

(d) pigs,

sold by auction in Western Australia in each of the past two years?

Mr OLD replied:

Except for Midland saleyards my department has no precise statistics of livestock yardings. Yardings at Midland were as follows:—

	Cattle/Calves	Sheep/Lambs	Pigs
1976/77 ....	322 979	2 679 947	132 788
1977/78 ....	292 377	2 211 625	119 205

Yardings other than at Midland saleyards are estimated to be as follows:—

	Cattle/Calves	Sheep/Lambs	Pigs
1976/77 ....	315 000	2.6 million	240 000
1977/78 ....	320 000	2.3 million	240 000

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### *Wittenoom Buildings*

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

What is the value of Police Department buildings—including housing—at Wittenoom?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

The Property and Valuation Office of the Public Works Department has advised that the current value of these buildings is not known.

## EDUCATION: DEPARTMENT

### *Wittenoom Buildings*

802. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

What is the value of all buildings—including housing—under the control of the Education Department at Wittenoom?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Not known.

## ENERGY: STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

### *Wittenoom Buildings*

803. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

What is the value of all buildings—including housing—owned by the State Energy Commission at Wittenoom?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The State Energy Commission does not own any property in Wittenoom. The buildings and equipment used by the commission are owned by the local authority under the terms of the Country Towns Assistance Scheme.

#### HOSPITAL

##### *Wittenoom*

804. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:  
What is the value of the hospital and all other buildings—including housing—under control of his department at Wittenoom?

Mr YOUNG replied:

\$891 934. That is the insurance valuation.

#### MINING: MINES DEPARTMENT

##### *Wittenoom Buildings*

805. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Mines:  
What is the value of buildings, if any, under control of his department at Wittenoom?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Nil.

#### COMMUNITY WELFARE: DEPARTMENT

##### *Wittenoom Buildings*

806. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Community Welfare:  
What is the value of buildings, if any, under control of his department at Wittenoom?

Mr YOUNG replied:

There are no buildings under the control of the Department for Community Welfare in Wittenoom.

#### HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

##### *Wittenoom Buildings*

807. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Housing:  
What is the value of housing owned by the State Housing Commission at Wittenoom?

Mr RIDGE replied:

The State Housing Commission owns 16 properties in Wittenoom, with a book value of \$129 600.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

##### *Wittenoom Buildings*

808. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

What is the value of buildings—including housing—owned by the Public Works Department at Wittenoom?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Not known.

#### SEWERAGE

##### *Cockburn Road*

809. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Which major obnoxious and/or food processing establishments fronting either side of Cockburn Road, Town of Cockburn, are connected to sewerage mains for the purpose of conveying production effluent to the Coogee sewerage plant?
- (2) Of those not connected, on what date is it anticipated that they will be connected?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) No decision has been made regarding connection to the Woodman Point sewerage treatment works and hence no date can be given.