

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th October, 1978

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

PORNOGRAPHY

Exploitation of Children: Petition

MR WILSON (Dianella) [2.16 p.m.]: I present a petition from 33 citizens of Western Australia which reads as follows—

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

We the undersigned, having great concern at the way in which children are now being used in the production of pornography CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT to introduce immediate legislation:

1. To prevent the sexual exploitation of children by way of photography for commercial purposes;
2. To penalise parents/guardians who knowingly allow their children to be used in the production of such pornographic or obscene material depicting children;
3. To make specifically illegal the publication and distribution and sale of such pornographic child-abuse material in any form whatsoever such as magazines, novels, papers, or films;
4. To take immediate police action to confiscate and destroy all child pornography in Australia and urgent appropriate legal action against all those involved or profiting from this sordid exploitation of children.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will protect all children and immediately prohibit pornographic child-abuse materials, publications or film. And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I certify accordingly.

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

(See petition No. 25).

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Loan Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Treasurer), and read a first time.
2. Marine Navigational Aids Act Amendment Bill.
3. Shipping and Pilotage Act Amendment Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Rushton (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.
4. Fire Brigades Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Consumer Affairs) [2.25 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. In September, 1976, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, at the direction of the then Minister, established an *ad hoc* committee to examine and report upon the question of unsafe and dangerous consumer products.

The establishment of the committee was as a result of complaints to the Bureau of Consumer Affairs concerning dangerous and unsafe products. Reference to these products was first made in the bureau's annual report for the year ended the 30th June, 1974.

The committee has met on several occasions to examine unsafe products and to discuss the need for legislation to control the sale of such products. Subsequently, the committee recommended that legislation was necessary to provide adequate safeguards to the community.

In the Commonwealth sphere, the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, under the customs (prohibited imports) regulations, may ban the importation of any unsafe product.

A separate problem is posed by such products being already on the local market and products of an unsafe nature manufactured in Australia. The control of products in the latter two categories can be effected via the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act, but only in so far as they are supplied or sold by corporations as distinct from unincorporated firms.

This legislation will complement existing legislation in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, and the recently introduced legislation in South Australia.

I have been advised that other States contemplate introducing such legislation for the safety of individuals in Australia as a whole. As members know, it is desirable wherever possible to try to legislate throughout Australia on a uniform basis rather than having States legislating independently.

Mr Skidmore: This arose out of a conference.

Mr O'CONNOR: If we legislate independently difficulties are created in connection with goods manufactured in one State which are not able to be sold in another State. It is very important we go along with what is occurring and try to set up a uniform standard throughout Australia where this is reasonable.

In overseas countries there has been much activity in recent years to safeguard the public against unreasonable risk of injury associated with unsafe consumer products.

Children especially are vulnerable to risk of injury through the sale of cheap imported goods, particularly some so-called toys. An example of the latter was a high-powered sling shot capable of inflicting severe injury or death.

The Bill now before the House seeks to—

establish a statutory consumer product safety committee with power to enlist the aid of technical specialists;

provide power to ban the sale of products which are apparently or actually unsafe;

impose a temporary ban to enable examination of products temporarily or permanently banned in other States or by the Commonwealth;

provide for the lifting of any ban;

provide that products may be sold subject to certain conditions;

That is, for certain products to be altered so they are considered safe rather than left as they were initially manufactured and considered to be unsafe. To continue—

provide for the advertising of all bans imposed and removed.

As mentioned earlier, this legislation will complement existing legislation in other States, and prevent Western Australia from becoming a "dumping ground" for unsafe products.

It is recognised that there is existing legislation in Western Australia that covers some unsafe products. However, it is not intended that this legislation will overlap or duplicate existing laws in regard to unsafe products.

Other amendments contained in this Bill relate to the chairmanship of the Consumer Affairs Council and the assumption of the commissioner's powers under the Act by the deputy commissioner.

Section 9 of the Act provides that one member shall, at the time of his appointment to the Consumer Affairs Council, be appointed as chairman. In accordance with this section, should the chairman resign, his replacement to membership of the council would become chairman.

This is not a desirable situation as it precludes an existing member from becoming chairman. A Deputy Commissioner for Consumer Affairs has recently been appointed, and it is considered desirable that he be given the same powers as the commissioner during the latter's absence.

I am quite sure most members will understand how a number of products which are dangerous to children have come onto the market from both overseas and interstate in recent years. Some of them contain high lead levels and some are made of inflammable material, and so on.

I am sure this is the type of legislation the House will support in the interests of the community generally and I therefore commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Skidmore.

LIQUOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Chief Secretary) (2.33 p.m.): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains three amendments which relate to the supply and sale of liquor—

at institutions involved in the training of catering students;

by cabarets on New Year's Eve where that day falls on a Sunday; and

to allow consumption of alcohol by guests of members of voluntary associations attending approved functions on licensed club premises.

The first provision is to exempt from the Act the sale or supply of liquor at a function conducted for the purpose of training persons for employment in the catering industry at tertiary educational institutions approved by the Minister for Education.

At such institutions as the Bentley Technical College, there are courses in catering for people seeking employment in the trade.

Under the existing provisions students can serve only non-alcoholic drinks to customers and this has obvious disadvantages for persons seeking employment as drink stewards. The amendment seeks to overcome this and provide a more realistic training situation.

The second provision is designed to enable cabarets to sell and supply liquor on New Year's Eve where that day falls on a Sunday. Under section 30 of the Act, holders of cabaret licences are not permitted to sell and supply liquor on Sunday evenings. There are no means whereby special dispensation can be given to the holder of a cabaret licence where New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday.

This amendment proposes to authorise holders of cabaret licences to sell and supply liquor on their premises when New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday and so bring cabaret licences into line with other liquor licences such as restaurant, hotel, and tavern.

The matter was raised because of the particular significance of this year's New Year's Eve which, of course, will be the eve of the State's 150th anniversary.

The final provision relates to a 1976 amendment which allowed holders of a club licence to obtain a voluntary associations permit to enable those associations to hold functions on licensed clubs' premises and to be supplied with alcohol at such functions.

The wording of this paragraph does not allow for association members to entertain their wives and guests at such functions. The amendment rectifies that situation.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Jamieson.

ABATTOIRS ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. Members are aware of the serious problem of under-utilisation at this time of the Western Australian Meat Commission's slaughtering facilities at Midland Junction and Robb Jetty; and of the measures recently approved by the Government to rationalise the operations of the service works to reduce the commission's losses.

The commission has drawn attention to the constraints placed upon it by the slaughtering fee in particular where the same fee is applicable notwithstanding the numbers of livestock delivered for slaughter by an operator.

The commission's economic performance would be improved if it was able to attract higher throughput. In practice the ability to do so depends upon being able to offer a fee discount or rebate based upon a guarantee from an operator that a certain minimum number of livestock will be presented for processing over a predetermined period.

The present system of charging for the commission's slaughtering facilities is controlled by regulation and as such is quite inflexible. It does not provide any prospect of giving practical recognition to an operator who has stood by the commission over a long period, and who is prepared to continue supporting it at an acceptable level.

The ability of privately operated works to offer discounts has attracted some operators away from the commission, and this is partly to blame for the present under-utilisation of the slaughtering capacity of the two service abattoirs. The basic purpose of the Bill is, therefore, to allow the commission the same flexibility to compete as abattoirs in the private sector.

The ability to secure a greater throughput on a consistent basis would also be beneficial both to the commission's operators and to livestock producers since it would assist in containing rises in slaughtering fees.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr H. D. Evans.

STOCK DISEASES (REGULATIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Act is to control diseases of livestock that are important to the economy of the State. The provisions of the legislation enable regulations to be made in regard to enzootic diseases—that is diseases already present in Australia—such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, footrot, and lice infestation; as well as in regard to exotic diseases—diseases of a very serious nature which are not present in Australia—such as foot and mouth disease and swine fever.

The exotic diseases (emergency powers) regulations, in view of their sweeping powers, are able to be put into effect only when the Governor has declared a state of emergency.

The present legislation sets out the regulatory action which may be taken in relation to two completely separate situations—that is, to deal with an enzootic disease or to deal with an outbreak of an exotic disease.

The legislation does not provide for a situation in which an entirely new exotic type disease is identified in Western Australia, but in circumstances where the absence of deaths or widespread sickness means that the declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency would not be warranted.

The amendment before the House seeks to correct this deficiency and clause 3 of the Bill proposes to establish a new section 13A which will provide that notwithstanding that the Governor has not declared a state of emergency the powers conferred by section 10 of the Act for the making of regulations with respect to enzootic diseases are conferred for the making of regulations with respect to any one or more of the exotic diseases.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr H. D. Evans.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)

Second Reading: Budget Debate

Debate resumed from the 4th October.

MR SIBSON (Bunbury) [2.41 p.m.]: I rise to give support to the Bill and make some comments. First of all, I would like to commend the Treasurer and the Treasury on the Budget which has been brought down. Despite the fact that to some extent it has not expanded as much as we would like, in the light of the current economic circumstances I believe it is a very commendable and responsible Budget and one which should be supported. It has been looked at, studied, and accepted by the public at large as being a responsible financial programme for the coming year.

The present climate in the whole of the country, as well as in Western Australia, is not as good as we would like but I firmly believe there are signs of improvement and that it is a matter of getting under way some of the projects which are in the melting pot. Of course, the south-west will feature very greatly in respect of the two alumina projects of Alcoa and Alwest. The oil seeds industry is also currently being established.

Only a few hitches remain to be cleared to allow that to go ahead, and it will come into production before very long.

These industries will provide basic employment which is one of the major problems. New industries and new projects will allow a proliferation of employment which in itself will of course generate other employment in support and service industries. The lesson to be learnt from this is that we should give every encouragement to industry. I believe the Government is doing that, and that it is up to the Opposition and the people, generally, to support the Government's endeavours to get projects moving, particularly the projects I have mentioned as well as the North-West Shelf gas and the uranium projects, which will not only create a large base for the employment structure but will also help to get the economy moving and will have a spin-off in providing further jobs and career opportunities.

I believe we have a responsibility to utilise our resources—I do not mean by rushing in and blatantly taking up the resources—and everything possible should be done to safeguard the environment, preserve water, and take care of all the other aspects entailed. I know this is currently being done in a very sensible way and on a long-term basis, but rather than confuse the issues in relation to these aspects we should be more constructive and aggressive in our approach and endeavour to get the economy moving and have jobs and career opportunities coming along so that the population may be fully employed again. Unless we adopt that kind of attitude we will fall into a morass and become a dying community, because as our young people come along and our numbers increase we will not have opportunities for them and we will not create an economic climate which will allow business and industry in general to look confidently towards the future and be able to employ more people.

In regard to the south-west, in particular, a sum of \$51 million has been set aside for various projects. It is not for me to give full details of them, because other members are involved in the south-west region.

With respect to Bunbury, it is very pleasing to see funds will be made available to continue the harbour extension. We now have the inner harbour established, with No. 1 and No. 2 berths operating, and we are moving on to the general purpose berth, which in itself creates the opportunities I was talking about. Industry, commerce, and other activities can become established in the south-west, knowing full well that a complete harbour will

allow the inflow and outflow of products, not only to Bunbury but also to the whole region. This applies equally to other areas such as Albany, Geraldton, Port Hedland, and Esperance.

It is important that the facilities be kept up to date and expanded as the demand requires. In fact, I believe it is necessary for these projects to expand ahead of need, because if the facilities do not exist there will never be a need for them. People are reluctant to go into an area and establish an industry unless the facilities exist or are on the drawing board and well on the way to being provided.

Funds have also been made available for the completion of the Forests Department's divisional headquarters in the south-west. They are just on the edge of my electorate and are actually in the electorate of Wellington. The headquarters will allow the strengthening and complete decentralisation of the Forests Department, and will enable the administration to be based firmly in the south-west where most of the timber operations are carried out—planting programmes for pine and other timbers, milling, and so on. It is commendable that this has been done, and I believe it is a mark of true decentralisation.

One could perhaps argue that the headquarters should have been established in another part of the region, but if we look at the forestry industry as it affects the south-west, perhaps Bunbury is the best and most central place for the divisional headquarters to provide the best possible management.

Sewerage is a very real problem in many towns, but particularly in Bunbury with its low-lying areas and areas which are subject to flooding from one cause or another. It is reassuring to know this programme is moving forward again and more funds are available to enable it to continue.

Some areas in my electorate are not suitable for septic tank development; and with some reservations this development has been allowed to continue in order to ensure sufficient blocks are brought onto the market, because it is not economically possible at this stage completely to sewer the whole of the development.

I would like to round off on the general outlook of the Budget by saying it is commendable that areas such as education and health have been extended even further and more money is being injected into them. It is a source of concern to me that these two areas of expenditure continue to demand a greater input of funds. On this basis I believe we must look to the proper utilisation of facilities in both areas, and particularly in the area of education.

(112)

We must start considering the way in which school buildings are constructed. We are committed to a teacher-student ratio policy which, of course, will cost a great deal of money. A great deal of extra funding has been set aside this year to enable more teachers to be employed. I will not go into detail on that matter because other speakers have covered it quite adequately and have explained what it will actually mean not only in respect of the education of our students but also in respect of giving a boost to the employment of school teachers—some of whom are badly in need of employment.

Returning to the better use of resources and facilities, it is still a great pity that despite the fact that we have made some progress in recent times in respect of other bodies using school buildings and having more parental involvement in the use of school buildings after hours and during the weekends, we have not made much progress in respect of the need to consider even greater use of these facilities.

School buildings are extremely costly when we consider that they are used physically for only a short period during the day. It may be necessary, particularly in growth areas, to look more closely at having two shifts. I am not a great supporter of having students attending school in two shifts, but I feel in the light of the high pressure demands of the Budget and the particularly high input of funds into the area of education, it will be necessary to look at ways and means to enable us better to use the facilities provided.

It could well be in some areas—particularly pressure growth areas—that we have to consider using school buildings for another shift. I do not know that people would agree with me on this matter, but it is an idea that should be pursued to the limit, even if we find in the final analysis it is not workable. Such a system works in other parts of the world on a continuing basis; however, that does not necessarily mean to say we should adopt it here. I come back to the point that much better utilisation of facilities in the area of education and medicine could slow down the growing demand for finance in those arenas.

Before moving on to some specific areas of need in my electorate I would like to pay tribute to the Bunbury Town Council, and in particular its mayor (Mr Pat Usher) and all the councillors, in respect of the opening next Monday of a new administration building. For many years Bunbury has been criticised over the time it has taken to provide this facility, and the council, staff, and the public generally have had to put up with fairly inadequate premises for many years. How-

ever, the day has come and the administration building is completed. It is a three-storied building which is spacious and contains all the facilities necessary for the present and the future to enable the administration of city affairs—and Bunbury will be a city next year—to be carried out. It was with great pleasure that I was able to take part in arranging for our Premier to come to Bunbury next Monday to open this facility officially.

Following closely upon that is the construction of a \$1.2 million sporting complex, the plans of which are currently on view. I have viewed the plans and read the recommendations. The construction of this building will bring not only to Bunbury, but in fact also to the whole of the region and particularly those towns within the proximity of 20 to 30 miles of Bunbury, a facility that will allow for greater expansion in the sporting arena. When this facility is constructed it will be possible to bring in international teams and to conduct sports indoors during inclement weather when otherwise this would not be possible. In general the facility will augment the already well developed Hay Park complex.

Once again, the Bunbury Town Council is to be commended, as are the sporting bodies in the district, for the hard and tireless work they have done over a long period to bring this dream to fruition. Whilst the dream has not been brought quite to fruition, it is getting close and funds are at present being arranged. An approach has been made to the Community Recreation Council to assist in the funding. This facility will provide for young people a real concept so far as sporting facilities are concerned, and I am sure they will appreciate it.

Turning now to some of the matters of concern, we are still pressing for a new courthouse. A site has recently been selected, and we are waiting to see what will be the future requirements in regard to the courthouse. I urge the Government to look very closely at this case as the town and the region are growing very quickly and the demand on the courthouse and court facilities is growing every day.

In addition, our decentralisation programme requires that more and more cases be heard in the south-west rather than in Perth. That is a very real area of need. I am arranging a meeting to be held shortly with the responsible department and the various people involved in the district, including the justices of the peace, to consider the matter and to produce recommendations in respect of a future courthouse facility.

One matter that is currently in the minds of the people in my electorate is the proposed removal of the rail link from Bunbury to Picton. It is envisaged that link will be removed in due course to allow the redevelopment of East Bunbury and the better use of land in the centre of the town. It is proposed that the rail link will be rerouted via the north shore.

That in itself creates other problems because the marshalling yards will need to be shifted. It is envisaged they will eventually be resited in North Picton or Waterloo. Already the track has been realigned to ensure this can be done. The Minister for Transport is to come to Bunbury this Friday to have discussions with the Bunbury Town Council, the Bunbury Port Authority, and other interested people in regard to the total concept of Westrail development in the area.

Some criticism has been offered by various people representing the Opposition as to the way in which the Government has handled this matter. However, I believe the project has been thoroughly considered by the Government in the light of the changing developments in the area. In addition, when it was first proposed some four years ago we did not have the realities of Alwest and Alcoa or the oil seeds industry; in fact, at that time the Dardanup plywood factory was only just becoming a reality. I believe the time is right to proceed with this proposal but, in doing so, we must ensure we plan for the future and provide the facilities which will be required in years to come. That is one of the reasons the Minister for Transport is having meetings in Bunbury this Friday.

I am quite confident the Government is aware of the needs of the people in this area. I do not think we should be panicked into doing something simply for political expediency. The planning which is done today must look forward to the next 50 or 80 years. So, it is essential we do not bend to political or media criticism and make only short-term decisions which in the long term will not be of the greatest benefit.

The removal of the line from Bunbury to Picton in itself is reasonably simple, despite the fact that many complications are involved. However, when we bring into consideration all the other aspects involved in the total project it becomes much more complicated. I am confident that what is being done is the right thing and that the local authority is aware of its responsibilities in this area. It, too, shares the Government's wish to ensure correct long-term planning is carried out.

A matter which has been of great concern to me for a long time is the situation regarding apprentices. Despite our employment problems, we are not training enough apprentices. There are many reasons for this.

Mr McIver: You are sacking too many of them.

Mr SIBSON: One reason is that over a period of time employers have been discouraged from taking on apprentices because of the high cost involved and the low output of work they receive in return. During the first couple of years of an apprentice's training, he does not provide very much return for the money outlaid.

Mr Hodge interjected.

Mr SIBSON: That is a ridiculous remark from the member for Melville. Even the apprentices themselves agree they are very well paid. I have a son who is an apprentice, and he agrees he is relatively well paid.

Mr Skidmore: Come on! Do you honestly believe paying an 18-year-old lad \$30 a week is reasonable?

Mr SIBSON: The member for Swan should realise that many more people could be employed if they were paid wages which could be afforded.

Mr Skidmore: Yes, pay them \$20 a week and you could afford any amount.

Mr SIBSON: Once an apprentice is trained and is skilled in his trade, he will be able to demand the high wages to which he is entitled.

Mr Skidmore: He will not receive high wages even then.

Mr SIBSON: In fairness to apprentices, however, we must approach this problem in a sensible way because unless employers are encouraged to take on apprentices—and, they can be encouraged only if they see it will work out economically—we will run into very serious trouble in the future due to the shortage of trained and skilled people.

Another real problem created by the apprenticeship system is that it puts people tendering for work at a disadvantage over their competitors who do not have apprentices. This problem affects most industries, particularly the building, fabricating, plastering and even, lately, the motor industries.

Firms which have traditionally done the right thing and taken on their share—and, in some cases, more than their share—of apprentices find that the smaller firms or the firms which do not employ apprentices have a distinct advantage when tendering for work. I believe this will dispel the interjections of the member for Swan.

I have examined this matter very closely in recent times, and it has been clearly shown to me that employers who are doing the right thing and recruiting apprentices are placed at a very great disadvantage in tendering because they are forced to build that component into their tender. I am not trying to decry the subcontractors and small businesses, because they represent an important part of our society. In fact, small businesses are supported in the Liberal Party platform.

At the same time, however, we must also support those business concerns which employ apprentices. In this competitive age, they would be better off not employing apprentices, but simply relying on subcontractors and top-class tradesmen to carry out their work; they would be better able to compete in the tendering field if they did not employ apprentices.

Perhaps this does not sound quite logical to members, but if they examine this problem, talk to these people, and see how they operate their businesses and what they are up against with regard to their apprentices they will find that what I am putting forward today is quite correct. Each business concern is most reluctant to change its way of operating because it believes it has a commitment to the apprenticeship system.

I have brought this problem to the attention of the Minister for Labour and Industry from time to time; in fact, currently I am preparing another submission to put to the Minister. I know the Government and the responsible department are aware of the problem, but I felt I should air it here today in the hope we will all take a closer look at the matter and be a little more concerned with the overall effects of the apprenticeship system. Members should not make foolish remarks like the member for Swan to the effect that we should simply pay apprentices more money; that is not what it is all about.

I reiterate that even the young people to whom I spoke were responsible enough to realise they could not be paid high wages while learning a trade. They know employers are operating in a competitive world and if they cannot obtain work, apprenticeships will be terminated. I believe that to be even more devastating than not employing an apprentice in the first place. I know a few young lads who have been employed as apprentices for 12 months or two years after which, because of the downturn in the economy or the inability of the company to compete, they have been stood down.

Mr Hodge: Mismanagement of the economy.

Mr SIBSON: That is a ridiculous comment from the member for Melville. Any commercial enterprise today which is not efficient does not exist. The member for Melville knows that as well as everyone else and he is only showing his ignorance of the actual situation in our society by making such foolish, ridiculous statements.

Mr Skidmore: What is wrong with the block release system for apprentices?

Mr SIBSON: That is another matter which is very costly. The member for Swan knows as well as I do that the best way to train apprentices is to do so as part of the work force. We have to find a way to make that work. It is all very well to talk about all these other ideas.

Mr Skidmore: You do not understand the system so I will make no further comment.

Mr SIBSON: That is very good. It would be better if the member for Swan made no further comment, as it will allow me to get on with my speech. I am certain the member can get to his feet in due course and if he refrains from further interjections I shall reciprocate when he is on his feet.

I believe this matter is one of the real problems facing our society. It is one to which we all have to give very real consideration and so endeavour to find a way to ensure the maximum number of apprentices are being trained. It should be remembered that in the next five or 10 years the demand for apprentices in the trade area will be unprecedented in the history of our State.

My next topic is rather parochial and it follows on from my Address-in-Reply speech. Cyclone "Alby" hit the south-west on the 4th April this year and we have now had some time to consider what has happened and assess the damages incurred, although it is still not known what the real cost of the damages will be. However, a few things are very clear.

Firstly, it is clear that a lot of income has been lost to people in the region, particularly those in the rural areas. Much damage occurred in the forestry areas, particularly to young pine trees. As the member for Bunbury, I shall take this opportunity to mention the flooding in the east Bunbury area.

As members are aware, the sea came over the bund and caused very serious flooding in the east Bunbury area, which resulted in the spoiling beyond repair of many household carpets, electrical goods, and other household items. It damaged paintwork and generally damaged buildings in the area and destroyed, almost without exception, all the lawns, trees and other vegetation.

Since that cyclone we have been able to assess some aspects of protection so far as flooding in Bunbury is concerned. The Bunbury Town Council has made an assessment of the area, as has the Public Works Department. The previous Minister for Works visited the area to gain first-hand knowledge of the damage. Currently, various programmes are being considered which are thought to be of benefit for the future long-term protection of the district so far as sea flooding is concerned.

One aspect which has been looked at is the possible digging of a channel between the little inlet on the Preston River. That move has not been implemented on the basis it would not provide sufficient protection and would create further problems in that it could allow the Preston River to flow back into the Bunbury area.

Another suggestion is the raising of the bund, which clearly would give further protection but would also create problems, particularly with respect to the aesthetic value of the inlet. If the bund is built up we will have something that is not visibly palatable and no real guarantee that it is the best method of overcoming the problem.

On the surface it would appear the best proposal would be to install gates in the little inlet; that is, to put in a system of gates which could be closed when the tide reached a certain level. This would have the effect of holding back the sea and preventing it from entering the little inlet. It does appear this would provide the greatest amount of protection. There are some problems involved, and it would be necessary to build up the bunds on the west and east sides of Koombana Bay.

Recently a public meeting was held in Bunbury, which was attended by some 200 people who virtually supported all that the Bunbury Town Council recommended to the Government and, in fact, what the Government is investigating. The meeting asked whether it was possible to bring in an engineer from the Netherlands or a country with similar problems so that we could utilise his expertise. A full study was requested of the various aspects mentioned as possible methods of protection and already the local authority and the Government have progressed in this area.

Whilst the people in east Bunbury find it very difficult any longer to feel safe with regard to flooding because of what happened during cyclone "Alby", I feel everything possible is being done in the way of investigations and experimentation. It will be essential for the people to understand there can never be any 100 per cent guarantee of safety and protection from cyclones such as

"Alby". Despite whatever is done, if we are unfortunate enough to have another cyclone as bad as or worse than "Alby" strike again, there can be no guarantee of complete protection. I believe what the Government is undertaking will give sufficient protection from normal high tides; however, when it comes to cyclonic conditions it is difficult to give any guarantee of full protection.

I wish to put on record the fact that I do feel for the people in the area. Many of them have lived there for a long time; many are second and third generation residents. It is not a matter of people having blindly gone to the area to live. It is an area where people have lived for a long time. Unfortunately, despite the fact that the flooding of the Preston River appears to have totally abated now, we have the problem of sea flooding during cyclonic conditions.

My time has almost elapsed but I believe I have touched on most of the matters that are of concern to my electorate. Whilst there are other subjects I could speak on, most of them have been brought to the notice of the various departments and are currently receiving attention. Other items I have mentioned in previous debates.

Western Australia and the south-west of Western Australia in particular with which I am closely associated, has a great future. However, we must work harder to achieve the objectives of the projects I have mentioned earlier, and to ensure the level of unemployment decreases and the economy is given a lift.

I want to sound the warning I have sounded previously which is in regard to unemployment, because Western Australia—and the south-west will be no different—will be in the dilemma it is facing at the present time for a long time to come. Every day there is a greater influx of people from the Eastern States and overseas making their way to Western Australia whenever we announce something is likely to happen. People are looking to Western Australia for their future. They want to be part of the excitement which will take place. I sound that word of warning in answer to Opposition members who bleat that the Government has done nothing to relieve unemployment.

I do not believe the percentage of unemployment will decrease for a long time; but I believe the number of jobs available will increase dramatically in the next few years. I say that definitely and the statement is based on fact. It should be remembered always that whilst the number of jobs is increasing, unemployment will not necessarily lessen for the reasons I have given.

Mr Davies: That is the funniest speech I have ever heard.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [3.23 p.m.]: I am indeed pleased that the member for Bunbury has given me a beautiful opening for the speech I wish to make this afternoon, and that is the question of unemployment and the effect it has on the economy. However, I might preface my remarks by saying it is more germane to use the word "unemployment" as distinct from the word "employment".

The member for Bunbury, in answer to an interjection from one of my colleagues, said wages being paid to apprentices were too high. He went on to say that this is one of the matters which is inhibiting employers employing apprentices. If one takes that to its logical conclusion, one would not be able to argue with it; but one could not do that, because the wages paid to apprentices are a pittance. That is no exaggeration.

Mr Laurance: You would agree with the general point that high wages for young people are causing unemployment, would you not?

MR SKIDMORE: I do not commend the Government for its Budget. There is nothing in it which gives me any great joy. As far as I am concerned, the Government is displaying a parsimonious attitude. It tells the worker he is getting too many dollars in his pay packet, but then allows its own workers to be robbed of their award conditions. The Government says, "You sign a contract or else." That is the attitude it displays. I cannot countenance that attitude and it is precisely what I wish to discuss this afternoon.

A number of one-man power stations are situated throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia. These power stations are manned by a single driver. This person must work long hours to run the plant. The people running these power stations come under the control of the SEC. I want to refer specifically to one of these people.

I have the permission of the person concerned to give his name. In fact, he wishes to be named, because he believes the SEC has placed his job in jeopardy as a result of the actions he has taken to protect his working conditions. He believes he has been robbed by the SEC over a period of approximately 18 months. Not only has this occurred in the case I am quoting, but every station operator working under the same sort of punitive contract which has been foisted upon him by the SEC has suffered the same fate also.

The worker concerned—and he is a worker, although this is disputed by the employer—is Mr T. W. Hargreaves. He works at Denham, Shark Bay. He runs the power station for the SEC. It surprises me that if the person resides in the electorate of the member for Gascoyne the member has not at least been able to help him.

Mr Laurance: He is a good friend of mine and he has been helped a great deal by the community.

Mr SKIDMORE: The member for Gascoyne should sit back and learn a lesson. He is certainly not performing his job if he allows one of the workers in his area to be robbed of his just rights under the award. It will take me some time to develop the matter, because it is very difficult to argue on industrial law in the time available.

Mr Laurance: How long has he been working for the SEC?

Mr SKIDMORE: Mr Hargreaves has been employed by the SEC from August, 1977.

Mr Laurance: A period of 12 months.

Mr SKIDMORE: That is correct. When the man went to work for the SEC he did so on the understanding that his wages would be no more or no less than the wages received by his predecessor who worked under a wages contract and as a wages employee. Based on that belief, the worker actually signed a contract with the SEC. Incidentally, that contract is illegal and I will prove that without a shadow of doubt in a moment. Under section 180 of the Industrial Arbitration Act nobody can sign a contract outside the terms of the award, not even the Government.

This worker was forced to accept the contract which awarded him certain conditions at the time. He felt these conditions were fair and equitable, but over the year they have been eroded by the standards forced upon him by the SEC. When it became patently obvious to the worker that he was losing money, he approached his union. He is a union member and he approached The Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association for assistance. The union referred the matter to the SEC and was confronted with a very unconciliatory attitude. The attitude displayed by the SEC was, "We do not know the worker. He is not a wages employee and we are not interested. Go away." Members opposite tell us we never want to talk and we rush in and have a strike. What is the good of another one-man strike? The employers would have a black leg in this worker's position as soon as he walked out of the power house door.

In some of the letters this man wrote to the SEC he displayed a degree of responsibility which would be obvious to anyone. The member for Gascoyne would be aware of the admirable character of this particular person. The manner in which he has performed his duty since he took over the power house has been commendable.

Mr Laurance: That is agreed.

Mr SKIDMORE: However, that did not help him to obtain a just wage. The union could not get anywhere, because the SEC refused to produce the books. The SEC said it did not know the worker; he was unknown to the SEC as a wages employee. As a result, the union asked me to highlight the matter in the House and I said I would be delighted to do so.

The worker's contract has expired and during the last few weeks this man has been running the power house and performing this job. If he is not on wages as a wages employee, I do not know how he is employed. Over the last few weeks he would have been subject to the award and should have been paid accordingly.

However, I do not rest my case on the flimsy facts of the last three weeks. I am interested in the previous 12 months. Let us have a look at the situation. This man has to perform 16 tasks. When one looks at the work expected of this man, one wonders how the SEC could pay him such a miserable wage under an illegal contract.

He has to operate the power station as directed to maintain a continuous supply of electricity. In other words, whether or not he likes it he has to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If he is not on the job, he certainly has to be available on a standby basis. In fact, he is not even allowed to leave Shark Bay unless he gets a relief and pays for that relief himself. That is one of the conditions of his employment.

If the worker was paid the award rate I would not mind so much, but the Government pays him half of what he is entitled to under the terms of the award. The worker has to check the levels of the fuel, lubricating oil, and water, read the meters on the engines, and carry out maintenance. To indicate that I have not come along half-cocked, I have here a copy of his log for the 24 hours ended Saturday, the 26th August, 1978. The log shows that from 1.00 a.m. until midnight he was running the machines. He appeared on the scene, read the meters, did the necessary checking of the temperatures and the levels of the oil and water, and recorded the

kilowatt output of the plant at the time. At 8 o'clock he again recorded the readings, and again at 1.00 p.m.

Another strange duty he has to perform is that since the Public Works Department has been in the area there is some sort of plant—I do not know whether it is connected with the desalination of water—for which he has to be available at all times. That is in his contract. He cannot leave the area, he has to be on standby to start an auxiliary engine. During the period I am referring to the worker had to start the auxiliary at 3 o'clock and switch it off again at 3.30. At 5.00 p.m. he had another call, and had to start the auxiliary, which he had to close down at midnight.

Let us be fair. I have outlined the situation where a man has been on the job from 8.00 a.m. until 12 midnight, a period of 16 hours. He receives no overtime. In fact, as I have said, if he engages a relief he has to pay for that relief himself. Quite frankly, the situation stinks.

Mr Laurance: Do you know what he was doing before his present job?

Mr SKIDMORE: I am not concerned with what he was doing previously. I am concerned only with what he is doing now. He may have been doing nothing. The member opposite is aware of the tragedy in the life of the fellow concerned. Just leave it alone, please.

Mr Laurance: That is only clouding the issue. He had to go hundreds of miles to his job previously.

Mr SKIDMORE: We now have to show that this particular worker is working under the terms of an award, and to do that one has to go to the Industrial Arbitration Act, which has not been changed in this particular area since 1912, when it was first introduced into this place. I refer to section 180 of the Act which has remained unchanged and is related to the prohibition of contracting out. Section 180 reads—

(1) Subject to section forty-one—

I am quite prepared to find that section and read it out for the benefit of members if that is necessary. To continue—

—no person shall be freed or discharged from any liability or penalty or from the obligation of any industrial award or agreement by reason of any contract made or entered into by him or on his behalf, and every contract, in so far as it purports to annul or vary such award or agreement, shall, to that extent, be null and void . . .

What it states in simple language—the same language I wish someone would write into our Acts of Parliament—is that no worker covered by

an award, and no employer who has an award in his industry, may contract outside the terms of that award. It states that workers and employers shall not enter into sweetheart deals.

That is precisely the argument I have heard repeatedly from members opposite: no sweetheart deals, let us have arbitration! Yet, here we have a Government instrumentality breaking the law of the land. I am glad the Minister for Labour and Industry has returned. Perhaps he will arrange for an inspector to look into the situation of one man power stations. Perhaps he will pull the State Energy Commission into gear and show the commission that it has to work within the law.

The commission argues that it is not operating under the terms of the Act, because the man is on contract. It would not matter whether or not he was on contract because that contract cannot be legally sustained. It is illegal. The very section of the Act I have quoted states that. Only if I am able to prove to the State Energy Commission that he is a worker, and covered by an award, will I get anywhere.

Mr Laurance: You are on dangerous ground. At Gascoyne Junction they do not have a single fellow. You will cost the fellow at Shark Bay his job. The maintenance will be carried out from Geraldton.

Mr SKIDMORE: I am on limited time so I ask the member not to interject.

Mr Laurance: It is important that I put the record straight.

Mr SKIDMORE: This fellow at Shark Bay knows he has placed his job on the line and that is why I am presenting his case today. He has refused to sign an iniquitous contract which he knows is illegal. He will not sign the contract, but the State Energy Commission insists that he does sign, or else.

Mr Laurance: If the power station is put on a purely maintenance basis from Geraldton, perhaps it will be your fault.

Mr SKIDMORE: If it is my fault I will see that the man gets another job.

Mr Clarko interjected.

Mr SKIDMORE: Shut up; you give me a pain in the neck.

Mr Clarko: That is the most intelligent retort you have made in this place.

Mr SKIDMORE: There is an award in existence which covers the State Energy Commission. It is the Engine Drivers Country Power Stations (S.E.C.) Award No. 19 of 1975. The award sets

out the position very clearly. If I were sitting in an Industrial Court it would be necessary to prove that a worker is a worker under the award, and that his work was classified in the award. That is clear. Under the classification, Wages 24, is set out the rates which shall be paid to workers assigned to that class of work. There is reference to an engine driver in a station with an output of: (a) 11 megawatts or less; (b) more than 11 megawatts but not more than 20 megawatts; and (c) more than 20 megawatts. Other duties are set out. So there are two qualifications. Firstly, there is need to show that a person is a worker under an award. He actually has to be employed in a classification covered in that award, specifically and precisely. Secondly, there is need to look at the area concerned, and the area covers the whole of Western Australia.

The award is still current. It has to be established that the worker is not being employed under a contract of service. He has to be aware of the fact that if he is only a casual worker his employer may deduct certain payments, unless he is on leave or is sick. The very feature I want to highlight in this particular award, to show the attitudes of the Government towards workers, is contained in clause 8. This clause refers to guaranteed work and states that the employer shall guarantee to each worker, other than a casual worker or a shift worker, a full week's work exclusive of Saturday and Sunday.

The worker I am concerned about should be on a 40-hour week. The contract states that he will work for 25 hours a week, but if by chance he has to work longer he will not receive anything more. Because of those conditions, he was originally to be paid the magnificent sum of \$16 an hour. The commission was to pay him for 25 hours' work a week, when the award sets out that he is entitled to be paid for 40 hours' work.

So it must be fairly evident that this person is a worker within the jurisdiction of an award and the contract is null and void. I imagine that as soon as possible a prosecution will be brought. If the Minister for Labour and Industry cannot get his inspectors to look after this man's interests, certainly they can be looked after privately. Action will be taken, not in the Industrial Commission but in a court of summary jurisdiction.

In the short time available to me I want to show just how much this man has lost. These facts were put before the industrial officers of the State Energy Commission. I do not intend to name the engineers concerned, but they are well known to me; one of them was an apprentice when I was in the trade. He is now an engineer in charge of some of the sections referred to.

The worker concerned has been told he is a contractor and not covered by an award. I believe I have proved, without a shadow of a doubt, that he is a worker under an award and entitled to the benefits of that award.

To further substantiate my remarks, I want to refer to a letter this person received. The notations on it clearly identify the source of the letter, and the detail of these notations are as follows: The letter was written on the 12th June, 1978, under the State Energy Commission letterhead. The reference number is 16/21/2 GW:PD. These details should make it easy for the Minister to identify the letter. The letter informed this man that notwithstanding the fact he is on contract for his labour—not a contract of service but a contract for service—he is still covered by workers' compensation.

This letter shows up clearly the duplicity and the complete arrogance of this Government instrumentality. It demonstrates the SEC's absolute indifference to the law of the land. The SEC now says the man is a worker and a wages employee for no other reason but that he cannot be covered for workers' compensation unless he is a wages employee, and to make sure that this man, who was supposedly on a contract for service, would not sue the SEC if he sustained injury arising out of his work, and such injury could be shown clearly to have been caused by the SEC because of the hours he had to work.

This is an example of the way in which the SEC can operate unjustly under certain circumstances. It said to this man, "We will cover you for workers' compensation."

What are the provisions in the Workers' Compensation Act relating to such a worker? The Act provides that the definition of "worker" does not apply to a person whose employment is of a casual nature. This man worked 25 hours instead of the usual 40 hours a week. Certainly we could say that he was not a casual worker, but he did work casual hours. The Act then goes on to say that a worker has to be employed in an industry by an employer as a worker and the only exclusion is that of a domestic worker who is not covered under the Workers' Compensation Act. Unless a worker can meet that prerequisite, he would not be covered by workers' compensation in law.

So this man was told that he was covered for workers' compensation, but the SEC officials now say, "Having been covered as a wages employee

for workers' compensation, you are not now a wages employee, you are a contract worker." That is another blow to this man.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.04 p.m.

Mr SKIDMORE: I intend now to quote from the letter sent to the union organiser by Mr Hargreaves. I do not intend to read the entire letter, because some portions are of a family nature, and the member for Gascoyne knows what they are. In his letter, Mr Hargreaves sets out his duties, the number of readings each day, the number of hours he works each week and the average overtime on Saturdays and Sundays. He states that his spread of hours is from 7.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. each day of the year. This is a person who is supposed to be working only 25 hours a week. He then goes on to set out his approximation of total overtime worked and concludes with the following statement—

I now ask you to make it clear to the SEC that any attempt on their part to replace me because of this bizzo will result in industrial action on the part of the FED. I have stuck my neck out—I know my livelihood is now in jeopardy. I am counting on you not to let me down.

Yet some 12 months earlier, that worker in good faith accepted a contract with the Government through the SEC; and today, that Government instrumentality, knowing it has written an illegal document, continues to hold that worker to the contract—notwithstanding all its iniquities and illegality and the fact that the worker himself has complained time and time again about the conditions under which he is required to work. He is able to get no redress from the department.

Bearing all this in mind, the SEC sent Mr Hargreaves a letter on the 7th September, 1978, asking him to sign another contract. For the Minister's benefit, the SEC reference is 1/S6/6 RJP:PG. It stated as follows—

Mr. T. W. Hargreaves,
Power Station Operator,
State Energy Commission Power Station,
Post Office,
SHARK BAY, W.A. 6537.

Dear Sir,

We confirm the recent discussions and arrangements made with you by our Senior Supervisor South Power Stations, Mr. . . . regarding the revision of the operation of the Shark Bay Electricity Undertaking.

That substantiates beyond any shadow of doubt that, from the 6th September, Mr Hargreaves was covered by the award conditions of the engine drivers' and country power stations award to which I have already referred. Is he being paid the rates provided for under that award? No, he is not. The Government is robbing this man of his legitimate award wage while knowing he is covered by an award. It refuses to allow the union to inspect the time and wages record of the SEC to establish whether or not that worker is so employed.

Of course, if he is not on the books of the SEC, that is yet another breach of the award for failure to keep a proper time and wages record. Employing a person covered by an award and refusing to pay him the award wage is bad enough without further offences being committed.

The most shameful aspect of this whole matter is the amount of money the Government has robbed from this worker; it has literally taken this money from him. The award rate applying to the Shark Bay SEC station is the minimum classification of 11 megawatts or less, and amounts to \$163 a week. He is entitled to a \$6.80 generator attendant allowance, making a total of \$169.80 a week, or \$4.25.5 an hour. In addition, he is entitled to service pay of \$9 a week.

Let us assume the law of the land would allow this man to be paid as a casual worker for his 25-hour base working week. Of course it does not, but let us assume it does. He would work 25 hours from Monday to Friday, three hours on Saturday, which would equate to five hours' normal time, and three hours on Sunday which, at double time, would equate to six normal working hours. This gives a total of 36 hours a week, or less than a 40-hour week. He is paid by voucher and, again for the benefit of the Minister, I inform him that the SEC voucher number is 93902. The gross amount of pay he received for 31 days, with no tax deducted, was \$575.

Let me relate the position which would have applied had the award been adhered to. Working 36 hours a week for 31 days in a month, Mr Hargreaves should have received \$716.54 in wages, \$12 in vehicle allowance, \$38.21 for nine hours' repairs, \$16.98 for four hours' linesman's work, and \$8.49 for two hours of rechecking meters, making a gross total of \$792.22. However, the Government through the deliberate connivance of the SEC made sure that Mr Hargreaves received \$217.22 less than he was entitled to. He was robbed illegally of that money by the SEC.

I am told time and time again in this place that the unions and union members must act responsibly and that if they did, the Government

would always act in a responsible manner. However, what do we find but complete irresponsibility on the part of the SEC in its refusal to produce its time and wages record and its continuation of employing a man on an illegal contract.

Those figures are based on a 36-hour week; the actual situation is much worse. Voucher 93902 sets out the hours of work, and the award provides for a guaranteed 40-hour week. I want to make this clear: Where an award states a worker is guaranteed 40 hours' work a week, he must be paid for those 40 hours whether or not he works them. Of course, he can work less than 40 hours by arrangement between himself and his employer.

However, Mr Hargreaves is hardly likely to leave Shark Bay to go, say, to Carnarvon because he must provide his own relief and pay him and, in addition, while that relief worker is so employed he must be covered by workers' compensation which once again is Mr Hargreaves' responsibility.

Mr Laurance: It sounds as if he is on a contract.

Mr SKIDMORE: He is not, but under the terms of the contract the SEC wants to impose on him he becomes a self-employed person only when he leaves Shark Bay and employs a relief worker. How stupid and crazy can the SEC be? I understand that some 12 or 15 or perhaps even 20 other country power stations are similarly affected. There are few variations; most are paid on the same conditions.

If Mr Hargreaves worked a guaranteed 40-hour week plus three hours on Saturday and three hours on Sunday his gross pay would be \$998.51 plus a vehicle allowance of \$12, giving a total of \$1 010.51. A quick bit of arithmetic reveals that the total amount the SEC has robbed from Mr Hargreaves is \$435.51 a month, or more than \$100 a week. Even if the SEC can qualify my statement that he is a wages employee, it is unquestionable that he has been robbed of over \$100 a week.

The Minister should be happy to do something about it. Really, I do not think he will be and I believe that, because he is that sort of man. The Minister should get onto his officers and tell them to do their job according to the laws and awards of this country. It is a damned scandal that a worker can be robbed in this way and have no redress other than to say, "I will sign a contract but only if it is fair and equitable, otherwise I would prefer to stay a wages employee."

What happens if we were to say there were 10 stations in Western Australia which were so affected by this decision to underpay and rob the workers employed in these stations? I will explain what would happen. With the worker working only his 25 hours and being paid award rates, this means a gain to the SEC and a loss to him of \$435.51 per month which equates to \$5 226.12 a year. That is the amount the commission has robbed the worker without a worry in the world.

It is no wonder the Minister's officers did not want to produce the books and the time and wages records of this worker. But let us have a look at the result of 10 stations operating under those circumstances. I believe there could be more, but I will take just 10.

By underpaying these men and pocketing the money, I suppose the SEC could be said to have found one way of balancing the budget; that is, by robbing the worker of \$2 606.64 a year by saying he is being paid for a short week. However, with a total of 40 hours a week as guaranteed under the award, the gain to the commission from money robbed from the wages of workers would total \$5 226.12.

There are two Ministers involved, one being the Minister for Fuel and Energy who I hope will get on to his officers in the State Energy Commission and tell the little flea who sits there as the industrial officer that he had better go and take a course in industrial law. If the ignorance that officer shows is to protect the commission I will apologise to him. However, if his ignorance is to deceive and rob the worker he is just as guilty as the person who issued the edict for him to follow that particular course.

I would like to recapitulate on some points. For a worker to be entitled to award conditions he must have an award and an appropriate classification and I make it known there is a classification of "engine driver". The award does not refer to private enterprise, but to the State Energy Commission. The award is No. 19 of 1975 and contained in that award are all the conditions needed in law to sustain a prosecution against the commission. The union has been reluctant to proceed as it does not wish to do away with the good feelings it has had with the commission in the past when it has been able to sort out differences with a great degree of unanimity.

That is why the union asked me to bring this matter to Parliament. It hoped to give the problem publicity and perhaps have the man redressed for the wrongs done to him. The contract of service has been fulfilled and the hours of duty have been met. The hours of duty are important because they establish that on Saturdays and

Sundays a worker shall not be paid for normal hours. However, this man was going to be paid normal hours for Sunday work.

I ask the Minister for Fuel and Energy to have a look at this matter to see if he cannot get some redress for this man so the union can go in and talk in a sensible way with the officers concerned. That is what the union wishes to do; what it has tried to do, but has been refused.

If that is not possible I will direct a further plea to the Minister for Labour and Industry and ask him to have his inspectors look at the situation. It is not just Mr Hargreaves at Shark Bay who is involved; this situation can apply to every other station in similar circumstances. I believe there are 10 or 15 other stations. The loss of \$52 000 a year or \$1 000 a week is too much to ask the individual 10 workers to sustain on behalf of the Government.

I do not think the Government wants to do this; I do not believe the department would allow it. Certainly the matter should be investigated. Before anything else is done perhaps the Minister for Fuel and Energy could forestall action by the union by indicating to it that the situation will be investigated.

There is no shadow of doubt that if the Minister for Labour and Industry, having had the matter directed to him, does nothing and takes no action, I will take action on a future occasion. I believe it is a complete dereliction of duty on the part of the department. With the sorry details I have put forward, there is no doubt that justification for redress exists.

I would like to make a final plea to the Minister for Fuel and Energy and ask that he protect the worker involved because a certain officer of the State Energy Commission has said to that worker, "If you continue to seek to receive your rights in accordance with the Industrial Arbitration Act and your award, you will go up the road." In other words, because the man is honest enough to ask for what he is entitled to receive, and he does not sign the contract, he will get the sack.

In the letter I read to the House it was that very fear which was held by the man concerned. I am certain he will not be sacked because I am sure the Minister would not allow it. I am not being patronising; I am sure the Minister would not countenance it.

As the member for Gascoyne has indicated, this man took over a run-down station which, unfortunately, had been looked after by a person who had a drinking problem and could not care less about it. Everything about the station now is

spick and span. The man has planted trees and nurtured them. All his chrome, brass and other metalwork is shining and in general he has done a very good job.

I ask the Minister to protect this man; to give him his rights; not to lose him because such people are damned hard to find.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr MacKinnon.

(Continued on page 3564).

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

TEACHER EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 21st September.

MR BATEMAN (Canning) [4.58 p.m.]: I deem it a great honour to be given the privilege of speaking to this Bill, because it is a subject about which I know absolutely nothing. I think perhaps we would all do very well to learn something about it.

Be that as it may, we on this side of the House have discussed the Bill for many hours. We have thought about it and argued about it, but we can see no reason that it should not be passed by the House. We therefore support the measure.

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

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr P. V. Jones (Minister for Education), and transmitted to the Council.

SECURITIES INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 24th August.

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [5.01 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, the Opposition supports this Bill.

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

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary), and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)

Second Reading: Budget Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR MACKINNON (Murdoch) [5.04 p.m.]: In supporting this Budget Bill I would like to address my remarks to the matter of employment. Primarily I would like to address my remarks to three particular areas: firstly, the Federal Budget as it affects employment; secondly, the State Budget and its moves to stimulate and affect employment; and, thirdly, the Opposition's non-policies and its lack of suggestions in respect of attacking the unemployment problem.

Members of the Opposition, both Federally and State-wise, would have us believe they have a monopoly on the concern to be expressed in relation to unemployment. I do not share that belief, and I believe the Government does not share it. Both the State Government and the Federal Government do have concern for the unemployed and for the problem of unemployment. The difference lies in our understanding of the solution to the problem. The State Government and, I believe, the Federal Government, consider that the Opposition's suggested solution to the unemployment problem—that we should spend our way out of it—is not a solution at all.

Mr Sodeman: And nationalisation.

Mr MacKINNON: Yes, they think, as the member for Pilbara said, that nationalisation is the answer, and that was quite adequately outlined on the front page of today's newspaper. It is a very short-term solution for unemployment but a long-term solution for disaster.

I think firstly we must retrace our steps a little to find out what is the basic cause of the unemployment we are experiencing. This becomes quite evident when we look at a few of the statistics over the last few years. Quoting from the statement on "The Western Australian Economy, 1977-78", recently presented to us with the Budget papers,

we find that average weekly earnings per employed male unit in Western Australia increased by 16.4 per cent in this State in 1973-74, whereas the Consumer Price Index increased by 12.9 per cent. In the following year, 1974-75, there was a staggering increase of 26.6 per cent in average weekly earnings per employed male unit. I would like to reflect on that statistic for a moment: in other words, the average earnings of the male workers in Western Australia increased by one-quarter in the space of one year. Yet the Opposition would have us believe that the economy can afford to do that every year. That is obviously absurd, because that is how the problems we are facing today began.

If we refer to an article published in *The Bulletin* of the 26th September, we find we are given some idea of the problems we are facing, and why it is necessary to do something about them. The article was written by Peter Samuel, and he referred to some statistics compiled by P. D. Jonson, R. Batellino, and F. Campbell of the Reserve Bank when they presented a paper titled, "Unemployment: an econometric dissection" to the recent conference of economists at Macquarie University.

The basis of the paper was that they believed there is an imbalance in wages at the present time and this is one of the basic causes of the present level of unemployment. I would like to read as follows from the article by Peter Samuel, in order that I do not misquote him—

Their paper estimates that in the final quarter of 1976, when unemployment was 278 000, 110 000 of that joblessness was caused by normal delays in getting jobs due to the time taken in shifting and in search—often called frictional unemployment. About 43 000 were accounted for by the recession in economic activity, which in itself was partly the result of the wage productivity distortion.

But a full 125 000 of those unemployed could be explained by real wage rises and forced changes in relativities.

Further on in the report the following is found—

"A fundamental imbalance in the Australian economy in recent years is that labor costs expressed in real terms have increased relative to real gross non-farm product per worker . . . the extent to which it has persistently exceeded the base of 100 for some five years has been dubbed the overhang. There is no doubt that the Australian economy is still hungover from the 1974 wage binge which, by December of that year, had lifted the index to 111."

Dr Troy: If every worker in Australia was to accept a 10 per cent reduction in wages, what would you get them all to do? Do you have another iron ore mine? Where would you sell the ore? Would you grow more wheat?

Mr MacKINNON: The point made by the member for Fremantle is a reasonable one. However, I think the other point that needs to be made is found in several articles, one of which I intend to quote later.

I turn now to business today in the community. All the people I talk to in the community and in the business world unfortunately now have the attitude that wherever possible they cut back on staff. Why do they do that? It is because wage and salary earners have pushed wages past the limit where employers can afford to employ a person who may not be 100 per cent efficient; that is, he may be a good worker but not completely on the ball. In the present economic climate an employer cannot afford to carry that sort of person, whom once upon a time business could afford to carry.

Mr Tonkin: Do you think the demand is higher?

Mr MacKINNON: What does the member for Morley think?

The Federal Budget had three main objectives in its efforts to achieve meaningful and lasting economic recovery. Those main objectives were, firstly, to reduce inflation; secondly, to create a climate in which interest rates would reduce permanently; and, thirdly, to improve our international competitiveness. In all those areas past Federal Budgets have achieved a measure of success. The present Budget, although it has been criticised in some areas—as I will point out later, because I think the State Government should have received more encouragement by way of loan funds—was designed basically to pursue a consistent line of action in those three areas.

For example, in respect of inflation, we saw in 1974-75 that the Consumer Price Index had an inflation rate of 16.7 per cent, whereas in the last financial year it was 9.5 per cent. In the last two quarters—the March and June quarters—the rate of inflation has dropped to less than 8 per cent; and in the coming financial year it is confidently predicted it will fall further to a level of approximately 5 per cent. That is meaningful recovery.

Interest rates also have fallen. We have seen the situation where in August, 1977, the long-term bond rate was 10.5 per cent, whereas in August of this year—only one year later—it had fallen to 9 per cent. Building society interest rates in this State also have fallen over the past year.

That is of benefit to the people of this State because it reduces their mortgage payments, thus giving them more spending money in their pockets. That is meaningful recovery and a meaningful increase in their spending power.

Thirdly, this country must improve its international competitiveness. I think anybody at all involved in any business area is facing increased competition from increased imports. The basic reason for this is our high wage structure. Again, it comes back to the same thing: if we are going to overcome the problem of not being competitive we must reduce inflation and interest rates. That will improve our international competitiveness. Once again, progress has been made in this area.

Mr Hodge interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: I did not say that, nor did I imply it.

Mr T. J. Burke: What about reducing profit margins?

Mr MacKINNON: If the member for Perth cares to look at the share of the gross national product which has been going to wages and profits in recent years, he will see that companies have indeed been faced with reducing profit margins over the years. That is one of the reasons we are in the situation in which we find ourselves today.

Mr T. J. Burke: That is the point I am arguing. You are encouraging them.

Mr MacKINNON: I ask the member what we are encouraging.

Mr T. J. Burke: A reduction in wages.

Mr MacKINNON: Yes.

Mr Wilson: The wage earners tell me that wages have not been adjusted properly for years.

Mr MacKINNON: After the member's interjection yesterday, I researched the statistics. For his information, in the last six months, in the March and June quarters of this year, the cost of living has increased by 18.4 per cent. Average male earnings have increased by 18.2 per cent. Clearly they are not falling behind. What I am saying is that with the reduction in inflation and reduction in interest rates, the real spending power of wages has increased.

To return to the point I was making, I suggest that our international competitiveness is improving. If we compare our rate of inflation with that of other countries as measured by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, we find that the average inflation rate for member countries in the 12 months to April, 1978, was 7.7 per cent. Australia's rate

has been less than 8 per cent in both the March and June quarters. In 1976 our inflation rate, however, was almost double the inflation rate for the OECD. This substantiates the argument I was advancing previously.

There was an article in *The Bulletin* of the 3rd October which was written by Trevor Sykes. The article was headed "How the basic industries beat the housing slump". How did they beat the housing slump, Mr Speaker? They did it by investing overseas. They invested overseas to try to earn more profits. Why did they invest overseas? Because the returns were down in Australia. Why were the returns down? Because wages were too high. They had to reduce employment rates and concentrate on capital investment to maintain their profitability.

This leads me to a matter debated in August, after the Federal Budget was handed down. The Opposition attacked the Federal Government for its policies in relation to the Federal Budget. I have looked through the *Hansard* of the 16th August, and it seems that not once did this Opposition suggest any alternative policies or any alternative suggestions along any lines towards solving the problem. Clearly the Opposition is bereft of any ideas and any alternatives.

Mr Jamieson: It shows how young and naive you are politically.

Mr MacKINNON: This brings us to the Budget of the State Government. The State Government has to be seen in the light of the background where we have our lowest revenue increase in the past 10 years. It has also to be seen against a background of borrowings. I will quote the words of the Leader of the Opposition as they are recorded in *Hansard* of the 16th August. They are as follows—

The deal handed out to the States by the Fraser Government, throughout its life, has been disastrous for Western Australia. It culminated, of course, in the deal handed to us less than 24 hours ago. I will point out to members what has happened to Western Australia during the terms of the Fraser Government in the years 1976-77, 1977-78, and what is proposed for 1978-79.

The general purpose capital funds available for Western Australia, comprising the general purpose capital grants and borrowings authorised by the Loan Council, have been slashed by \$36.1 million or 10.3 per cent in real terms after allowing for inflation. Specific purpose payments and authorised borrowings for specific purposes have been slashed by \$117.4 million, or 22 per

cent in real terms. The position is worse with those specific purpose grants. The combined total of specific purpose grants and general purpose capital funds has been reduced by a massive \$153.5 million, or 17 per cent in real terms.

The Leader of the Opposition continued—

General purpose capital funds are down \$13.3 million, or 10 per cent in real terms for this year. Specific purpose capital funds are down \$30.9 million, or 17.6 per cent in real terms.

Total capital funds are down \$44.2 million, or 14.4 per cent in real terms. All these figures have been taken, of course, from official documents most of which are attached to my summary which was prepared in my office. The figures are indisputable. Specific purpose payments for recurrent purposes are down \$4.8 million, or 1.6 per cent in real terms.

Those are the words of the Leader of the Opposition. It is against that background that this Government has recently introduced its Budget. That was a Budget which, in the light of all those reductions, has seen an increase of expenditure of 10.7 per cent on the revenue Budget. It has seen borrowings increased by 13 per cent.

We did not hear the Leader of the Opposition giving any credit to the Government, despite what he said previously on the 16th August when he painted such a gloomy and dismal picture. He has given no credit at all to the Government's efforts against such a background, providing such increases in expenditure at such a time.

This Government has endeavoured to take steps to improve the employment situation, bearing in mind that we have only limited facilities available in this State—our Budget totals approximately 5 per cent that of the Federal Government. Initiatives have been taken with respect to minor works programmes through the Public Works Department. The sum of \$4 million has been injected into the economy, improving employment prospects. Education expenditure has been increased by 14.6 per cent.

There has been an increase of 14.6 per cent, and yet all the Opposition can say on education is, "Why cannot class sizes be improved?" They never tell us where we can find the funds to improve them.

In relation to the police and the RTA, expenditure has increased by 13.4 per cent. We have recently heard criticism of this area by the Opposition, but nowhere have we heard any suggestions

made to the Government on how to improve it. In New South Wales, where they have that wonderful Premier, Mr Wran, there is one policeman for every 569 residents. In Western Australia there is one policeman for every 495 residents. We live in the best State!

Mr Bryce: That has nothing to do with the Government.

Mr MacKINNON: Last night we heard the member for Murray, in his address on the Budget, make some suggestions in relation to employment. We also heard the member for Maylands and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. This afternoon he made comments about New South Wales—that wonderful State! Let us look at the statistics for New South Wales, and compare them with Western Australia. In 1974, civilian employment in New South Wales was at the level of 1 767 700. Today the figure is 1 686 800, which represents a reduction of approximately 81 000. In Western Australia, however, the figure has increased from 375 300 to 402 600. That is at a time when other States in the country are exporting their unemployed people to this State.

Nowhere have we heard the Opposition giving the Government any credit for those achievements.

On the 16th August the Leader of the Opposition outlined a picture of gloom. Indeed, this State received a tough deal from the Commonwealth Government. We found that general purpose capital funds were down by 10 per cent in real terms, representing \$13.3 million. Specific purpose capital funds were down \$30.9 million, or 17.6 per cent in real terms. As I said before, despite that great reduction the Government has seen increased borrowings of 13 per cent in this financial year.

Nowhere have we heard the Opposition giving the Government credit for taking initiatives in the area of the MTT in relation to the leasing of 26 new buses. Leasing is a modern method of financing. It is a method of financing which enables this Government to release funds for capital purposes.

One other item in the capital Budget on which I wished to comment was the expenditure of the Industrial Lands Development Authority—\$4.7 million this financial year. That expenditure will stimulate employment, because most of the work involved in that scheme is labour-orientated. Of that \$4.7 million, \$3.7 million is to be spent at Canning Vale on the extension of the Canning Vale industrial area.

Mr Nanovich: That will create employment, will it not?

Mr MacKINNON: Obviously. That area happens to be in my electorate. Recently, with the member for Canning and the Premier, I attended the opening of the ACI glass factory. I think all members here know of the development there in relation to the brewery and the glass works. That development indicates that those companies have confidence in the future. So do I.

The State Energy Commission will have a capital investment programme totalling \$108.1 million. We have yet to hear from the member for Collie, but I doubt that when he speaks he will give the Government any credit for the fact that it is proceeding to build two power stations in Collie.

Mr Jamieson: You will hear plenty from him. Because of this Premier's stupidity, it is costing a lot more than it should have. It is costing \$60 million more. That is how good he is!

Mr MacKINNON: In his speech the other night the Leader of the Opposition said that the Government was bereft of ideas on unemployment, and was bereft of suggestions for helping to relieve unemployment. I hasten to say that that comment could have been directed to himself and to his own party. This Government is not bereft of ideas. This was evidenced by a Press release recently. It was dated the 29th September, and it was issued by the Premier's Department. The release was commenting on the conference soon to be held in Victoria. That will be a conference on employment. This Government has positive suggestions to make at that conference. I quote from that Press release one of the suggestions to be made—

An injection of more funds into the States for public works of lasting benefit and aimed at the nation's basic working assets such as railways, roads, ports, water, sewerage and power.

That has been a consistent suggestion by this Government all through this period. The second suggestion is as follows—

An injection of funds into the home-building construction industry, to re-activate that vital sector of the economy which is currently under-utilised.

The third suggestion reads—

New forms of complementary trade training to meet the need for skills including areas other than apprenticeships.

Those are the suggestions of the Government. What are the suggestions of the Opposition? I listened to the Leader of the Opposition with interest. What suggestions did he make? What suggestions did he make for the Premier to take

to the conference in Victoria—suggestions to give to the Federal Government? His only suggestion is that we should spend our way out of our problems. That is a suggestion that this Government and the Federal Government clearly reject.

No ideas were advanced by the Leader of the Opposition. I listened with interest to the member for Gosnells. I thought he might advance some suggestions. However, other than discussing the teachers' strike issue and a few tow trucks in his electorate, we heard no suggestions whatsoever on what this Government might do in relation to employment.

Obviously the Opposition is concerned about employment. However, they do not appear to have any solutions.

The member for Fremantle gave us a few brief comments last night about our misplaced trust and our future in international trade. Those are sentiments that I do not share. However, no alternatives did he suggest. What do we do about the people who have been employed and who will be employed in the future on the North-West Shelf gas project if we lose our position in trade? We have heard no alternative suggestions made.

I listened with great interest to the member for Swan. He suggested a fantastic solution to the problem. I am not saying that the member for Swan said something that was not pertinent and was not relevant. Maybe he had a point to make. However, we did not hear one suggestion from him of what should be done by this Government in relation to the economy. He made not one suggestion as to how we can stimulate employment; not one suggestion as to how we can reduce inflation. We still await those suggestions. We heard not one suggestion on how we may restructure our income, if the Opposition ever happened to get onto the Treasury bench.

How would the Opposition restructure our income to increase it and live up to all the promises it has made with respect to education, pupil-teacher ratios, and unemployed teachers? How do Opposition members think they will be able to gain these funds when 52 per cent of our income in the current revenue Budget comes from the Commonwealth? It is very interesting. A total of 20 per cent of our income is derived from taxation. That is an area the Opposition would probably slip into straightaway. The other areas members opposite would probably slip into would be, as we saw on the front page of the paper today, the nationalisation of companies. The Opposition would probably go back to the stage we were at prior to the Liberal Government coming to power. It would acquire once again the State sawmills and it would increase charges in an endeavour

to raise profits through Government-owned enterprises. That is where the Opposition would raise income and it cannot hide behind any other cloak.

Before concluding, I should like to include in my comments a criticism of the Federal Government along the lines suggested previously, which is that the Commonwealth should be looking more at injecting capital funds into this State for the specific purposes mentioned already.

The other point I should like to make was raised by the member for Cottesloe and it is in relation to specific purpose grants. I believe if the Federal Government is sincere in its approach to new federalism—and much progress has been made in that area already—it must take a more realistic line in relation to specific purpose grants and payments.

The answer to question 1835 which was asked yesterday by the member for Cottesloe showed we have received certain percentages in relation to Commonwealth specific purpose grants and their proportion of the Consolidated Revenue Fund in recent years.

In 1955-56 the percentage of Commonwealth money tied up in specific purpose grants was 0.46 per cent. In 1965-66 the figure was 0.82 per cent. We have reached the stage in 1976-77 where 12.32 per cent of the money given to this State by the Commonwealth is tied up in specific purpose grants in areas such as hospitals, schools, and funds for Aboriginal affairs.

I believe the area of specific purpose grants should be examined closely by the Federal Government with a view to returning to the situation we were in previously where most of the money from the Commonwealth was given to the States on an untied basis and the people could then judge responsibly the expenditure of this State. The Government is not then held to ransom by the electors for expenditure which has occurred under these specific purpose payments which are outside our control.

In conclusion, I should like to quote a portion of an article written by Milton Friedman. He was commenting on the recent tax revolt in America. It is a tax revolt of which all Governments should be aware. All Governments should look at the situation and take note of the comments when making its irrational promises. Opposition should look very closely at his comments when it is making its irrational promises. I quote in part the comments made by that gentleman—

To politicians around the country the message from California should be clarion clear. The wave of taxpayer protest can carry

politicians who learn to ride it to the highest offices in the land. However, they had better heed the other half of the California message as well. The public is getting sophisticated. It will demand performance and not merely promises.

I believe in its Budget the Government has not merely given promises, but has in fact performed in a commendable manner.

I support the Budget.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Sodeman.

House adjourned at 5.34 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1799 and 1832. *These questions were postponed.*

TRANSPORT: BUS

MTT: Mirrabooka Shopping Centre

1833. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What stage has been reached in negotiations with the State Housing Commission for the acquisition of land for a bus transfer station at the Mirrabooka Centre?
- (2) When is it anticipated that work will begin on the transfer station?
- (3) When is it anticipated that the transfer station will be available for use?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Negotiations have not been finalised.
- (2) and (3) A date cannot be determined at this time.

PENSIONERS

Garbage Charges

1840. Mr TERRY BURKE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Why are pensioners, who are eligible for a 25 per cent rebate on local authority rates, not eligible for a similar rebate on charges levied for garbage?
- (2) Will she provide for pensioners to receive a 25 per cent rebate for garbage charges in the future?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Garbage collection charges have never been the subject of legislation granting rate deferments or rebates to pensioners because they are a fee for the supply of a specific service to an occupier.

- (2) No. It is not considered appropriate that these service charges should be included in the pensioner rates concession scheme.

POLICE AND RTA: GNOWANGERUP

Television Reception: Radio Interference

1841. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) What steps are being taken to alleviate the problem of apparent severe interference with television reception in the Gnowangerup area due to police and Road Traffic Authority radio operations?
- (2) (a) What is the cause of the problem; and
(b) how severe is it?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) A VHF repeater base station in the Stirling Ranges on Moir Hill will be installed. When completed, it will give adequate radio coverage for the entire Gnowangerup and surrounding police districts.

Work on an access road has commenced, but has been delayed due to wet weather. It should be completed this month. When access is available, work on the new repeater station will commence.

Instructions have been given to police to keep the use of their sets to a minimum.

- (2) (a) Television receivers in Gnowangerup are operating in a fringe area, resulting in very weak signals being received from the television stations. The television receivers are vulnerable to the stronger radio signals of the nearby police frequency.
(b) It could be regarded as severe at times to householders in the near vicinity.

LAND

National Park: Cape Range

1842. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What were the recommendations made by the Environmental Protection Authority that were endorsed by Cabinet for enlarging the Cape Range National Park?
- (2) (a) What reserves presently comprise this national park; and

- (b) on what dates were these created and enlarged?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The Department of Conservation and Environment advised the Department of Lands and Surveys in April, 1976, that State Cabinet had endorsed the recommendations relating to the Cape Range National Park which reads as follows—
9.2 CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK.

The EPA recommends that:

1. The Cape Range National Park be extended to the boundaries shown in fig. 9.8 submitted.
2. That the status and purpose of the park be amended to Class A for the purpose of "National Park" and that it be placed under the control of National Parks Board with power to lease.

which "was amended by the fourth paragraph of the Addendum" which read as follows—

With regard to the Cape Range recommendation 9.2, in 1974, the boundaries of the reserve were extended to include the major part of Yardie Creek Station. In regard to the remaining area recommended as shown in Figure 9.8 it is considered that so high is the tourist potential of the area that rather than reclassification as Class A with the National Parks Board with the power to lease, it is now considered that the extended area should be made Class B, vested in the National Parks Board with power to lease.

- (2) (a) Class "A" Reserve No. 27288 set apart for national park and vested in National Parks Authority.
(b) Created by notice in the *Government Gazette* dated the 9th October, 1964, and enlarged by a notice dated the 12th July, 1974.

TOURISM AND ROADS

Mt. Augustus and Kennedy Range

1843. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What are the estimated numbers of tourists now visiting the following attractions per annum:
(a) Mt. Augustus; and

(b) Kennedy Range?

- (2) Which authority is responsible for the road to Mt. Augustus from Dairy Creek homestead via Mt. Phillips?
(3) Has the recently improved road access to points around the base of Mt. Augustus been initiated by the State Government?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) It is estimated that approximately 400 school children have travelled through areas (a) and (b) on organised tours this year. No reliable estimates of adult travel are available as most travellers visiting these areas make independent arrangements.
(2) Upper Gascoyne Shire Council.
(3) No.

RECREATION: COMMUNITY RECREATION COUNCIL OFFICER

Transfer from Albany to Fremantle

1844. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Recreation:

With respect to the transfer of the Community Recreation Council officer at Albany to Fremantle:

- (1) Was there consultation and agreement with the Albany Town Council?
(2) Was the vacancy at Fremantle advertised within and/or outside the Community Recreation Council Service?
(3) Were there applications from Community Recreation Council officers?
(4) If "Yes" to (3), how many applications?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Since 25th August, there have been three letters and two telegrams from the Community Recreation Council to the Albany Town Council in relation to the transfer, plus letters and telegrams to the recreation officer concerned.

A discussion between a senior officer of the Community Recreation Council and the Town Manager of the Albany Town Council took place on 25th August. This discussion, confirmed by letter, set out the reasons why it was necessary to transfer the incumbent recreation officer from Albany at this time.

The principal reasons outlined for this transfer were to give the officer the opportunity to obtain qualifications which will enable him to progress along the salary scale and enhance his career prospects.

The officer concerned remains the only one currently employed as a recreation officer by the Community Recreation Council who is not undertaking adequate studies towards an appropriate professional qualification.

The officer concerned has made several representations over the years, pointing out the disadvantage of not being qualified in comparative salary terms; currently a vacancy in the city has occurred and in a nil staff growth situation it was considered necessary to give the officer this opportunity for progression. The Albany Town Council stated that they appreciate that the transfer of the officer to a Perth metropolitan appointment in order to qualify in the discipline of recreation is desirable, however, the timing of the transfer would be inconvenient. In appreciation of this, the Community Recreation Council will ensure that a replacement appointment is made before the officer is transferred.

A further meeting between the Community Recreation Council and the Town of Albany has been arranged for Friday, 6th October.

- (2) The vacancy was advertised within the service.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Four officers indicated interest. However, it was considered that the Albany based officer should be given preference.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATES

Revenue: Mining Tenements

1845. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the fact that certain Goldfields local authorities have claimed that rate revenue from mining tenements could be substantially reduced in the event of the Mining Bill presently before Parliament becoming law:

- (a) has she investigated the claims; and
- (b) taken any action to have the Bill or the Local Government Act suitably amended?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The claims which have only recently been made will be examined and appropriate action taken if necessary.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Land Sales in Eastern States

1846. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is it a fact that there are advertisements appearing in Sunday newspapers in Western Australia placed by a company known as Paradise Sales, for blocks on Macleay, Lamb and Russell Islands off the Queensland coast?
- (2) Is it a fact that some people in Western Australia who responded to similar advertisements in the past have since found that blocks purchased as a result of those advertisements were worth less than possibly one-fifth of the price paid, due to the fact that they were situated in areas zoned as "drainage problem areas" including permanent swamps and land subjected to seasonal flooding?
- (3) Is it also a fact that the Mr Peet referred to in the advertisement on page 42 of the *Sunday Times* of 23rd July, 1978, as being available by telephoning 349 9872 is not registered on the electoral roll for the accompanying address, 33 Heaton Road, Yokine, and is not resident at that address and thus is not available on the above telephone number?
- (4) What action is he prepared to take to protect people in Western Australia from such possibly misleading advertising of land sales in other States?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The situation as described may have existed some time ago. However, the bureau has no record of specific complaints of the nature referred to.
- (3) The address and phone number is that of a commission agent (see p. 135 of the telephone directory yellow pages) who was engaged by Mr Peet to represent his interest.

- (4) I am not aware of any recent complaints. However, I have requested the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs to investigate the matters raised by the member and will take appropriate action.

HOUSING

Rental: Armed Services Accommodation

1847. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Federal Government intends to dispose of armed services rental accommodation in State Housing Commission areas?
- (2) Has the State Government been contacted by the Federal Government regarding the purchase of such housing by the State Housing Commission?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what are the terms of purchase being offered by the Federal Government?
- (4) What is the attitude of the State Government to the possible acquisition of such housing as a means of boosting the State Housing Commission's rental stock?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Under the terms of the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement (Servicemen) the Commonwealth is required to offer to a State such dwellings as become surplus to the requirements of servicemen housing as and when the position arises.
- (3) The question of purchase does not arise as funds are provided by the Commonwealth to a State under the terms of the agreement. The housing, in effect, is the property of the State, but rented to the Commonwealth.
- (4) Such housing as is released by the Commonwealth is automatically utilised for purposes of the State Housing Commission.

MINING

Miners' Homestead Leases

1848. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

How many miners' homestead leases under the Mining Act are current at the present time?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

316 as at the 5th October, 1978.

MINING

State Batteries

1849. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Government still intend to proceed with the Minister's proposals to increase battery charges?
- (2) What is the proposed increase in charges?
- (3) When is it intended to implement the increases?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (3) This matter is still under consideration.

EDUCATION

WA School of Mines and Eastern Goldfields Technical College

1850. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the envisaged total capital cost in respect of the proposed new buildings and equipment for the—
 - (a) federated campus of the WA School of Mines; and
 - (b) Eastern Goldfields Technical College?
- (2) Over what period of time is it expected that the building and equipping programme will take place?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The estimated total cost of the Eastern Goldfields post-secondary education complex is \$11 358 000.
At this stage, no details are available of the apportionment of this amount between the parties associated with the complex.
- (2) February, 1978, to June, 1982.

FUEL: OIL

Recycling

1851. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Are there plans for recycling of lubricating oil in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the Government's policy on the recycling of oil, bearing in mind the energy crisis?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Recycling of used lubricating oil in Western Australia has been carried out by private organisations for over 20

years. The used oil is collected, re-refined to remove impurities and marketed to industrial and Government customers.

- (2) The State Government supports the use of re-refined lube oils. Re-refined lube oils are on the Government tender list and State organisations such as Westrail are large users.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Motor Vehicle Tyres

1852. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Are there inferior vehicle tyres which may be classified as for trailer use only?
- (2) What provisos are there to prevent their sale for improper purposes?
- (3) Under what Statute is there such protection?
- (4) Can such tyres be sold for the wrong purpose?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (4) The matter of standards of vehicle tyres is regulated by the Road Traffic Act, vehicle standards regulations, 1975. The questions raised therefore come within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Police and Traffic.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Refrigeration Repair Business

1853. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is he concerned about unethical practices in the refrigeration repair business?
- (2) Did his department receive a complaint from a Mrs Beatrice Brand of Queen's Park in March of this year relevant to question (1)?
- (3) Will he name the firm concerned?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No, the incident of complaints in this field is less than 1 per cent of total complaints.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) and (4) No, because the complaint is the only one received against the firm in question and in any event the account rendered, which may or may not have been proved to be justified, was cancelled by the trader.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Youth Training Programme

1854. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is the operation of the special youth employment training scheme working commensurate with his department's aims?
- (2) How many people have been employed under the scheme?
- (3) Is the level of training commensurate with the stated aim of training these employees those skills that will enhance their future employment prospects?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The SYETP is a Commonwealth Government scheme, controlled and funded by the Commonwealth.
- (2) The Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations advise that to date 12 384 youth in Western Australia have been employed under the scheme.
- (3) The programme is aimed at assisting young people to gain training and learn some specific skills as well as complementary work experience. Surveys have shown that employers and trainees consider the programme worth while and a large percentage of young participants had successfully established themselves in the work force.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Swanson Committee's Report

1855. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

What is the Government's attitude to the implementation of Chapter V of the Swanson committee's report?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Chapter V of the Swanson committee's report is entitled "Rights Upon Termination of Franchise Agreements". I am unable to establish the relevance of that subject to consumer affairs.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Motor Vehicle Purchases

1856. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) What is the Government's policy with respect to remedying the present position whereby a motor vehicle bought in good

faith may not have the title passed on to the person who has purportedly purchased the vehicle?

- (2) What concrete action is intended by the Government in the near future to remedy the position?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) No policy is required since the consumer, in the situation described, is protected by the appropriate provisions of the Trade Practices Act—if the dealer is a body corporate—or the Sale of Goods Act—if the dealer is a partnership or sole trader.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Star Swamp: Preservation

1857. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Will the Government make full and proper reservation of the Star Swamp area, allowing a large enough area to prevent the degradation of this valuable wetland?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Acting upon the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority the Government has decided to add about 15 hectares to the existing reserve north of Star Swamp. This reserve, under proper management and complemented by adequate drainage control of housing development on the land presently owned by the State Housing Commission, should ensure that the Star Swamp area remains as an environmental asset to the community, as was originally intended and pursued by the member for Karrinyup.

TRAFFIC

Tailgating

1858. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) What is his department's policy with respect to vehicles too closely following another vehicle?
- (2) What is the Police Department doing to deter motorists from following other vehicles too closely?
- (3) What emphasis upon this aspect of traffic safety is given when tests for driving licences are made?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Regulation 509 of the Road Traffic Code requires a driver, when following another vehicle, to keep such distance behind it as will enable him to stop his vehicle in an emergency with safety and without running into the vehicle in front of him.
- (2) The Road Traffic Authority takes appropriate action where a breach of the regulation is detected. In 1977-78 323 persons were cautioned, 220 issued with infringement notices and 32 charged with following too closely.
- (3) Questions relating to following too closely are contained in the written test and the practice is subject to examination during the driving test.

1859. *This question was postponed.*

ELECTORAL ROLLS

Kimberley, Nedlands, and North-West: Removal of Names

1860. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

How many people have been removed from the roll for failure to reply to notices regarding non-voting at an election in the electorates of Pilbara, Kimberley, Murchison-Eyre, Gascoyne and Nedlands since the last State election?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Pilbara	....	....	....	1363
Kimberley	....	....	....	397
Murchison-Eyre	..	....	....	153
Gascoyne	....	....	....	154
Nedlands	....	....	....	448

All totals relate to the State general elections held on the 19th February, 1977, except in respect of Kimberley. As a petition was lodged to a Court of Disputed Returns in respect of that district and as the election was subsequently voided, no electors were removed. The figure of 397 therefore relates to the by-election held on the 17th December, 1977.

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF: CYCLONE "ALBY"

Lord Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund

1861. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Premier:

In view of the fact that the comprehensive statement on Cyclone "Alby" has been tabled in the Parliament, will he advise:

- (1) What is the amount raised for the Cyclone "Alby" appeal?
- (2) What is the up-to-date payout figure from the appeal?
- (3) In view of the fact that Parliament passed the motion I moved on Wednesday, the 2nd August, 1978 calling on the Government to re-examine the needs of applicants and the criteria under which it was granted, will he advise what additional payments will be made in line with the terms of the motion?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) \$822 350 — assuming the member is referring to the Lord Mayor's appeal.
- (2) \$667 870.
- (3) The needs of applicants and the criteria under which assistance has been granted have been progressively reviewed and additional payments have already been made to a number of applicants. These reviews have applied to both the Lord Mayor's appeal funds and also the Government assistance.

Also, see comment under "Part (b)" of explanatory statement tabled Tuesday, the 3rd October, 1978.

If, in the meantime, the member knows of any hardship cases, he should make details known to me as soon as possible.

EDUCATION

High Schools: Laboratory Assistants

1862. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Education Department changed the criteria upon which a Senior High School's entitlement to laboratory assistants is calculated?
- (2) (a) Has the position of full-time laboratory assistant at Belmont Senior High School been officially discontinued;
(b) if so, will he explain why?
- (3) Has the position of full-time laboratory assistant been officially discontinued at any other school of comparable size to Belmont Senior High School?
- (4) Is it a fact that it is impossible to cope with—
(a) the normal volume of work; and

(b) the backlog of work, without a full-time laboratory assistant?

- (5) Will he undertake to reconsider the position at Belmont Senior High School with a view to restoring the position of a full-time laboratory assistant at the earliest possible time?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) No.
(b) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
- (4) (a) and (b) No. Laboratory assistants are an addition to professional staff resources and are a valuable aid to schools. Schools could operate without them but less effectively.
- (5) This Public Service Board position has been held in abeyance pending the finalisation of the 1978-79 Budget. The Budget has now been approved and consideration will be given by the board to making a substantive appointment. It should be noted that a part-time laboratory assistant was appointed to Belmont the same day that the previous assistant received a promotion and at no stage has the school been without assistance in this area.

RAILWAYS

Iron Ore

1863. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Transport:

With respect to iron ore transported by Westrail from Koolyanobbing:

- (1) How many trains are there per week?
- (2) What is the average tonnage per train?
- (3) What is the freight rate per tonne?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Eleven per fortnight—six one week, five the next week.
- (2) 4 500 tonnes.
- (3) The freight rates are the subject of special agreements with Westrail's clients and it would be inappropriate to provide the information requested.

HOSPITALS: COUNTRY*Children's Wards*

1864. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the policy with respect to the provision of children's wards in non-metropolitan hospitals, particularly the smaller country hospitals?
- (2) Is any change to the policy being contemplated?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) In most country hospitals one room is set aside as a children's ward. It is usually serviced by special children's toilet facilities and normally the ward is centrally located near the nurse's station to provide the best opportunity for close observation. When necessary other beds are available for children.
- (2) No.

HEALTH: MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS*Interns and Graduates*

1865. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many doctors now at intern level will not be able to get appointments in teaching hospitals as resident doctors next year?
- (2) How many graduates in medicine will not be able to get jobs as interns next year?
- (3) What are the criteria for appointment from intern to first year resident positions?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The position is not yet clear, but there may be a few unsuccessful applicants.
- (2) None.
- (3) The positions are advertised and appointments made on merit.

ROAD*Noranda Avenue and Wotzko Road*

1866. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Local Government:

With reference to the answer to question 1697 of 1978, provided by the Minister for Lands, regarding surveying and pegging work by officers of that department for alterations to the course of Wotzko Road, Morley, so that it forms a 'T' junction with Hookwood Road, can

she clarify the situation in view of information contained in a letter to me from her predecessor on 7th July, 1978, which indicated that the proposal to alter the course of this road had been objected to by the Main Roads Department and was not approved by the Hon. Minister for Traffic?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The question does not indicate the precise nature of the clarification sought. If the member is more explicit I will endeavour to provide an answer.

I would like to indicate that I will have a discussion with the honourable member to determine what information he is seeking. I am unable to discern it from the question.

HOUSING*Mirraboopa and Yirrigan*

1867. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In view of the comments by Sir Roland Wilson at the opening of the Mirraboopa Square shopping centre on Tuesday, 3rd October, that he had been assured by the State Housing Commission that the area around the centre would soon be filled with many more houses, can he say what plans there are for development in the area and when such development is likely to begin?
- (2) What assurances have been given by the State Housing Commission or the Government to the developers of the shopping centre about new housing development in Yirrigan and adjacent areas?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Preliminary planning for suitable areas in the vicinity is being carried out and the ultimate development will depend on the demand and needs applying at the time.
- (2) No assurances have been given by the State Housing Commission.

LEGAL AID COMMISSION*Applications for Assistance*

1868. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Is it a fact that the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia is rejecting applications for legal assistance on the

ground that proceedings are not likely to be determined in a manner favourable to the applicant?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Under section 37 of the Legal Aid Commission Act, this is one of the matters which the commission is required to take into account in determining whether or not legal aid will be granted.

TRAFFIC

Hutton-Hector Streets Intersection

1869. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Is it a fact that officers of the Road Traffic Authority are possibly exploiting the difficulties faced by motorists negotiating the intersection of Hutton and Hector Streets, Osborne Park where because of the absence of a right turn arrow and the consequent build up of right turning traffic, other motorists wishing to proceed straight ahead are being forced into the left turn only lane?
- (2) Have these difficulties been taken up with the Main Roads Department?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

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

JOURNALISTS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANTS

Number Employed by Government

1870. Mr HODGE, to the Premier:

How many journalists and/or public relations consultants are employed either full time or part time or on a contractual basis by the Government of Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

On Tuesday next I shall seek leave to table some information in answer to earlier questions which will also cover the major information sought in this question.

FLORA

Wildflowers

1871. Mr GREWAR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) What has been the value of wildflowers sold locally, interstate or overseas in all forms, e.g., fresh plants, dried plant

parts, seeds, etc., during the past five years?

- (2) What are major plant species sold and in what form?
- (3) Where are major markets?
- (4) What is the potential for increasing sales?
- (5) (a) How many collectors are involved;
(b) is registration necessary?
- (6) Are the areas of collection on Crown land being inspected to ascertain if over-picking is occurring?
- (7) Which companies or individuals have export licences?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Not known.

Large quantities are sold from private property and there are no separate records for endemic and exotic plants raised and sold by nurseries.

- (2) The main species collected and sold from State forest and Crown land in the south-west and Eucla land divisions are as follows:—

Fresh flowers:—

Boronia megastigma
Anigozanthos manglesii
Verticordia nitens.

Dry flowers:—

Dryandra formosa
Verticordia nitens
Conospermum sp.

Leaves:—

Banksia grandis
Stirlingia latifolia
Leucopogon verticillatus
Kingia australis.

Fruits/Seeds:—

Macrozamia reidleyi
Eucalyptus ficifolia.

- (3) Major markets are West Germany, Singapore, Japan.
- (4) Not known, but understood to have considerable potential.
- (5) (a) The number varies seasonally but is about 50 on State forest and Crown lands.
(b) Registration is not necessary under existing legislation.
- (6) Areas where picking is permitted under forest produce licence are inspected.
- (7) Not known.

TRAFFIC

Fines

1872. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

For the years ended 30th June, 1976, 1977 and 1978 respectively how much was paid in fines for traffic offences—

- (a) on infringement notices;
- (b) through court actions?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) Infringements
(whole State)

\$

Year ended the 30th June,
1976 2 108 257

Year ended the 30th June,
1977 2 402 706

Year ended the 30th June,
1978 2 212 689

- (b) Statistics relating to fines for traffic offences are not maintained.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN: PREMIER

New South Wales Visit

1873. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) Was the cost involved in his travelling to and from New South Wales and around New South Wales last week to electioneer for the New South Wales Liberal Party—

- (a) met by the State Government;
- (b) met by the Liberal Party;
- (c) met by some other source?

- (2) (a) Did Mr W. W. Mitchell accompany him to New South Wales;

- (b) if so, in what capacity and at what cost?

- (3) (a) Was he accompanied by any other members of his staff;

- (b) if so, will he provide details?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) My visit to New South Wales was not at the taxpayers' expense nor was I accompanied by any public servant, or anyone else, for that matter, at taxpayers' expense.

TRADE TRAINING

Advisory Council

1874. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Who are the members of the advisory council of industry and Government leaders to advise on trade training and what interests do they represent?
- (2) On what occasions has the council met to date?
- (3) What are its terms of reference?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The council to which the member refers was not formed as it was found that it would largely duplicate the work of the youth employment task force appointed in December, 1977 and the Industrial Training Council appointed in February, 1977 pursuant to the Industrial Training Act. Additionally, the Under Secretary for Labour who is a deputy member of the National Training Council, had subsequently been appointed to the council's trade training committee which formed earlier this year.

The task force is comprised of senior representatives of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, the Department of Labour and Industry, the Confederation of Western Australian Industry, the WA Trades and Labor Council, the Perth Chamber of Commerce, and the Retail Traders Association.

- (2) The task force met on the following dates:

1st December, 1977; 11th January, 1978; 25th January, 1978; 8th February, 1978; 8th March, 1978; 12th April, 1978; 17th May, 1978; 14th June, 1978; 26th July, 1978; 31st August, 1978; and 20th September, 1978.

- (3) The general objective and function of the task force is to reduce unemployment among young people and includes support for the youth job centre, training, job squad activities and employment creation schemes.

WATER SUPPLIES: RATES

New System: Inequities

1875. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What are the five options from the Metropolitan Water Board aimed at covering inequities under the new pay-for-use water scheme considered by the Government?
- (2) Is it a fact that to increase the annual allowance from 150 kilolitres to 210 kilolitres, i.e., an increase of 60 kilolitres to all households, the Metropolitan Water Board will forego an estimated \$1.9 million in 1978-79?
- (3) Will the Minister explain the discrepancy between the answer given to my question 1534 of Thursday, the 7th September, 1978, where in reply it was stated that if the annual allowance was increased to 200 kl the Metropolitan Water Board would forego an estimated \$2.3 million and the report in *The West Australian* of the 4th October, 1978 where Government M.P.'s were quoted as saying that if the annual allowance was increased to 210 kl, the Metropolitan Water Board would forego about \$1.9 million?
- (4) What is the estimated gross revenue to the Metropolitan Water Board in 1978-79 from the annual service fee of \$36 under the new pay-for-use scheme?
- (5) What is the number of residences on which the answer to (4) is based?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The alternatives were considerations only, the important one being the one recommended.
- (2) No, it is not a fact, it is an approximation.
- (3) The figure of \$2.3 million was stated at that time as an approximation.
- (4) Approximately \$10 176 000 which includes an approximation of possible expansion.
- (5) Approximately 288 000 residential units.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

EDUCATION: TEACHERS

Industrial Dispute: Schools Affected

1. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Education: How many Government schools in the Cottesloe electorate closed today as a

result of teachers' strike action, and which ones?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:
None.

"THE BULLETIN"

Cover

2. Mr BATEMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he seen this week's copy of *The Bulletin*?
- (2) If "Yes", will he advise which Perth company designed the cover?
- (3) Will he further advise what was the total cost to the Government of this front page cover?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I do not know, because it was entirely the concern of the publisher.
- (3) Nil.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Correspondence with Russian Ambassador

3. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Russian Ambassador replied to his letter of the 14th July, 1978, in which he sought to have invoked Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- (2) If "Yes", to what effect?
- (3) If "No", what further action has he taken or does he intend to take in this matter?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) To the best of my knowledge there has been no reply from the Russian Ambassador, and that is about what I expected. However, I intended, after allowing a very generous amount of time, to seek some clarification if it was not received.

HEALTH: HERBICIDE 2,4,5-T

Use: Ban

4. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he seen the report in *The Australian* of the 5th October, 1978, with regard to the use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T?
- (2) Will any action be taken by the Government to ban the use of this herbicide?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I do not have a copy of the report, so I cannot quote from it exactly, but I have read it and I have ascertained that the product 2,4,5-T referred to in that article must be an overseas product which is high in dioxin. The product used in Australia is not so composed.

In fact, adverting to questions 1069 and 1456 of 1978, I have for tabling a report which I promised the member for Maylands. I will table the report but in reply to the member for Maylands I would like to quote two paragraphs from it, for the edification of members. It is the report of the Consultative Council on Congenital Abnormalities in Yarram District, which was tabled in the Victorian Parliament recently, and it says—

Of special interest to the unscientific layman will be the information which shows the amounts of food or spray mix required to be ingested per day to reach the no effects level of 2,4,5-T by a 60 kg. pregnant woman.

She would have to drink 1.5 litres of spray mix or eat 24 kg of freshly sprayed blackberries or drink 100 litres of water collected in a 10 000 litre tank from a roof sprayed at a rate of 4 kg per hectare, or drink 12 000 litres of milk or eat 6 000 kg of meat, assuming the animals were deliberately fed 2,4,5-T at much higher levels than would be expected to occur through the ingestion of treated pasture.

- (2) In reply to the member for Clontarf: "No".

The report was tabled (see paper No. 398).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Deputation to New South Wales

5. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

I would like to preface my question by pointing out that you, Mr Speaker, may or may not have seen in a report from Sydney last week that the Premier was electioneering on behalf of the New South Wales Liberal Party, and he promised that if he were successful in having the Coleman Government elected to office the Coleman Government would immediately be coming to Western Australia to find out how to attract investment funds to New South Wales.

In the light of the Wran Government's significantly better record than this State's in achieving a far greater reduction in the percentage of its workers who are out of work, will the Premier send a deputation from Western Australia to New South Wales to find out how to get Western Australians back to work?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition very much for the question. First of all, the percentage to which he refers would obviously be in favour of New South Wales because that State starts off from such a bad base.

Mr Bryce: In fact it is below the national average and we are above it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Secondly, I want to tell the honourable member he had better do his own checking before he starts to defend the Premier of New South Wales, who is getting away with absolute murder in—

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not think I need to remind members of a ruling and practice I have followed in recent times in respect of questions without notice. I can only assume from the recent spate of interjections that they did forget, and on this occasion I will not move to the next item on the notice paper. But I warn that I will do so if the interjections continue.

Sir CHARLES COURT: As I was trying to say, the Premier of New South Wales—and I did not reserve this comment until I returned home, because I made it on every radio and television station I could while in Sydney—is getting away with murder in what professes to be a policy speech but is one which no leader of this State would have the hide to put forward.

Opposition members interjected.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I also want to remind members opposite, and particularly the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, that the reason Mr Coleman would want to come to Western Australia to have a look at our performance and negotiating techniques is—

Opposition members interjected.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I know members opposite want the Speaker to stop me because of their interjections and go on to the next item of business, but I want to say—

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir CHARLES COURT: —that the New South Wales economic indices are the worst of all States of Australia with one exception, and that is in connection with mining investment, in which case it is the fourth worst.

Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I ask members of the House to have some regard for the job that has to be done by the *Hansard* reporter. I would also again ask for some regard to be paid to the ruling of this Chair.

BEEKEEPING

European Foul Brood

6. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Following the announcement that the whole of South Australia has now been declared affected by the disease European foul brood, will the Minister as a matter of urgency take steps to ensure that honey, queen bees, and second-hand beekeeping equipment are prevented from entering Western Australia from any other State because of the threat of the introduction of that disease?

(2) Will the Minister have officers of his department increase their surveillance of honey imports to ensure they continue to meet the health requirements?

Mr OLD replied:

(1) Pasteurised honey is not a disease risk. Honey certified as having been pasteurised can be introduced from all States.

Mr Davies: Isn't this what you told us yesterday?

Mr OLD: I am replying to the member for Vasse.

Mr Davies: All I am asking is, is it the same as you told us yesterday?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr OLD: Bulk honey from Queensland—Several members interjected.

Mr OLD: The Leader of the Opposition may ask a question without notice if he so desires.

Mr Davies: I ask, is it the same information as you gave yesterday in reply to the member for Warren? You have so much "SOL" that you will not even say "Yes" or "No".

Mr OLD: Wait and see; be patient.

Mr Davies: I am very patient.

The SPEAKER: Order! A week or a fortnight ago I terminated questions without notice, only to discover that one of the members on the Opposition benches who is very fair and sensible about his interjections, was denied an opportunity to ask a question without notice. I have noticed by the actions of the same member that he intends to ask a question without notice today, but if the barrage of interjections continues he will lose that right. The Minister for Agriculture.

Mr OLD: Bulk honey from Queensland, Tasmania, and northern New South Wales is not a disease risk as authorities in those States have certified that European foul brood is not present. Under these circumstances the prohibition of honey imports from those parts of Australia would be contrary to the provisions of section 92 of the Australian Constitution.

Similarly, queen bees may be introduced from Queensland and northern New South Wales, in view of their disease-free status.

I am informed that imports of second-hand beekeeping equipment are rare. Steps will be taken to prohibit such imports.

(2) My officers have been maintaining close surveillance on such imports and this will be continued.

EDUCATION: TEACHERS

Industrial Dispute: Schools Affected

7. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Education:

This question should not be a problem to the Minister as he was so readily able to answer the member for Cottesloe.

My question is: How many schools in my electorate were affected by the strike?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I would have been happy to provide the answer had the honourable member

given me some notice, as did the member for Cottesloe. If he would like to know the total situation as far as all schools were concerned, I can tell him that teachers were in attendance at 54 per cent of schools in the metropolitan area and 38 per cent of schools in the country, which happened to be in the Kimberley and the Pilbara.

Only three schools were totally closed. They were Koolin Island, which has three teachers; Pannawonica, which has six teachers; and Coogee, which has three teachers. In all, the teachers at 68 schools were called on strike by the union, and the rest operated full programmes either with full staffs or with two or three members of the staff absent.

