

for anyone to judge how effectively a member of Parliament carries out his duties.

If a member of Parliament is a bad member there is only one group to blame and that is the people who elected him. It is their responsibility. It is of no use talking about the system and method of endorsement by the party, because that is a sorting-out process. The responsibility for electing a member of Parliament is upon the electors. If they are sufficiently apathetic to return any individual who later is considered to be unworthy of his office, that is their business. It could be that one member of Parliament may not be our cup of tea; but, nevertheless, he may suit his electors. Time and again I have seen where a member's behaviour in this House and his apparent performances have led to a political party, of one colour or another, attempting to unseat him with abysmal results, because that member happened to be effective in his representation of his electors.

Mr Tozer spoke a real truth when he said that the ability of a member as an orator should not necessarily be the final judgment on him as a good or efficient member. I think it is a pity that at times we see media reports which are not as critically analytical as they might be. Of course, we must accept that, because in our position, we are a target, sometimes, for abuse by the media, it is a shame that that kind of criticism is reported. Facts speak for themselves and in making a comparison with other Governments around the world, this Government, and previous State Governments, and Governments and individual members throughout Australia, during the period I have been interested in politics, have been phenomenally free of the worst of all things that can be said about a politician; that is, that he is guilty of graft and corruption.

I can recall Sir Walter Murdoch in one of his brilliant essays—and this is many years ago—stating, "It goes without saying that people get the politicians they deserve. *Ipsa facto*, they get the Governments they deserve although one can say about Australia that the people have had politicians who have been consistently better than they deserve". I believe that to be true.

I believe Mr Thompson, in his own rights, has been a good member of Parliament in his area. Whether or not I like Mr Thompson, I would still maintain that he is a good member of Parliament. He works. To my mind that is the ultimate accolade one can give to any member of Parliament regardless of whether he can put four sentences together; that is not the most important feature. He could be the most brilliant orator in the world, but that would mean nothing if he did not work in his electorate. I believe he works, but I wish he would give the rest of us credit—I am disappointed he did not—because whether he likes it or not, the

majority of us work in our electorates because the majority of us last longer than one term.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Mr President—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The question is that the House do now adjourn. The matter which was before the Chair on that question, has been finalised by the Minister. I do not think I can allow any further discussion.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.46 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 9th October, 1975

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

### QUESTIONS (60): ON NOTICE

#### 1. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

##### *Hydroelectric Power Station*

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

- (1) Has the Environmental Protection Authority been consulted on the question of a pump-storage hydro-electricity station in the Darling Range?
- (2) If so, on what date and what advice has been tendered?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Recommendations from departments to the Minister on matters relating to a Cabinet decision are and will continue to be confidential.

#### 2. HEALTH

##### *Detergents*

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

- (1) Adverting to question 11 of 1st October, 1975, does the 95% referred to in that answer apply to the total amount of detergent on the market by weight, by volume or by number of brands?
- (2) What are the details of the 5% not abiding by the undertaking?
- (3) What action is being pursued with a view to achieving total conformity?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Weight but the estimate was approximate.

- (2) Detergents used for certain industrial cleaning purposes, e.g., wool scouring, where satisfactory alternatives are not available.
- (3) Under review by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

### 3. CONSERVATION THROUGH RESERVES COMMITTEE

#### *Membership and Finance*

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

- (1) Further to question on notice 75 asked on 27th March, 1975, has it yet been decided how to expedite the Conservation through Reserves Committee examination of system 6?
- (2) What consideration has been given to including a town planner on the committee or its technical sub-committee?
- (3) Who are now the members of the committee and its technical sub-committee?
- (4) (a) Has the committee's work met with any particular difficulties in regard to financing and/or obtaining reasonable assistance from other Government agencies;  
(b) if so, could details be given?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) I refer the Member to the answer given to question 18 of the 7th October, 1975.

### 4. WATER SUPPLIES

#### *Recycling: Research*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Further to question on notice 14 and in particular parts (d) to (f), asked on 15th April, 1975, what research has been and is currently being undertaken in regard to the utilisation of waste water (e.g., treated sewerage effluent)?
- (2) (a) What has been the nature and progress of studies undertaken in regard to the recharging of unconfined aquifers in the Perth metropolitan region;  
(b) what have been the sources of water used in the project?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Phosphate removal from secondary effluent is being studied in a small pilot plant at the West Subiaco waste water treatment plant.

A pasture grass experiment is in course at Westfield waste water treatment plant. Lucerne is also to be cropped.

An experiment is proceeding at Beenypup waste water treatment plant under the control of the CSIRO in which pines are irrigated by trickle irrigation of secondary effluent.

- (2) (a) and (b) The studies have been directed to the effect of surface spreading on some of the sand disposal sites under the management of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board and have involved the chemical and bacteriological examination of samples.

A further proposal is under the consideration of the Commonwealth Government under the national sewerage programme relating to ground water re-use.

### 5. KWINANA INDUSTRIAL AREA

#### *Pollution Control*

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

- (1) Further to question on notice 30 asked on 25th March, 1975, and part (2) of question on notice 11 asked on 15th April, 1975, has a review of staff yet been completed?
- (2) (a) What has been the outcome in regard to the assignment of staff to special problems relating to the Kwinana-Cockburn Sound area;  
(b) what decision has been made concerning the appointment of a pollution control officer or liaison officer concerned with this area?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) Staffing arrangements within the department are an internal matter and not one for discussion in the House.

I would add that if the honourable member will let me know what is specifically referred to, I will provide him with the information.

### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL

#### *Filling of Vacancies*

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

- (1) (a) Further to questions on notice 63 and 9 asked on 26th March, 1975 and 9th April, 1975 respectively, have the two vacancies for

persons representing environmental interests on the Conservation and Environment Council yet been filled;

- (b) if so, who are the persons appointed and who are their deputies;
- (c) is the Minister able to provide some details which indicate the environmental interests of these appointees;
- (d) did the Government solicit nominations from environmentally-oriented community groups, and if not, why not?

- (2) Who are the persons appointed to fill the enlarged membership of the council, as provided for by recent legislation, and who are their deputies?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) to (d) Mr J. Bannister, Director of W.A. Museum, with Mr W. E. Ewers of CSIRO as deputy; Mrs S. de la Hunty, affiliated with Australian Conservation Foundation, National Trust and other conservation bodies, with Dr P. R. Wycherley, Director of King's Park as deputy.
- (2) Dr G. A. German. Deputy yet to be appointed.  
Mr E. N. Fitzpatrick with Mr G. Spencer as deputy.

## 7.

### ROADS

#### *Signposts: RAC Approach*

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

- (1) (a) Further to question on notice 93 asked on 26th March, 1975, what approaches were made by the RAC for Government assistance to enable it to continue its sign-posting activities;
- (b) what was the Government's response to these approaches?
- (2) (a) Has the Government offered any assistance to the RAC concerning its sign-posting activities;
- (b) if so, could he please provide details?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) None that I am aware of. The Royal Automobile Club wrote to the Commissioner of Main Roads in February this year advising that the club had decided to discontinue its directional sign posting activities as from 30th

June, 1975. The club was advised in reply that the decision would not cause any real difficulties to the Main Roads Department.

- (2) (a) and (b) No. The responsibility for adequate direction signing rests either with the Main Roads Department or local authorities, depending on the road involved. Local authorities receive Government grants for roads which can be spent on the erection of direction signs.

## 8. WOOD CHIPPING INDUSTRY

### *Service Roads*

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

Further to question on notice 47 asked on 27th March, 1975, could a map be tabled showing the private log-haul road route being developed by W.A. Chip and Pulp Pty. Ltd.?

Mr RIDGE replied:

A map of the private log haul road being developed is submitted for tabling.

*The map was tabled (see paper No. 452).*

## 9.

### STATE FORESTS

#### *Wood Chipping Industry: Resource Cutting*

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

Further to part (6) of question on notice 71 asked on 19th March, 1975, and part (3) (b) of question on notice 19 asked on 17th October, 1974, what is the rationale for increasing woodchip resource cutting from State forests from 500 000 tons in the 1969 agreement to 670 000 tons in the 1973 agreement, particularly since chipwood and sawlog cutting are to be concurrent?

Mr RIDGE replied:

A sale of woodchip at the lower figure was not considered economically viable and as this quantity was based primarily on the marri resource a larger quantity was possible with the acceptance of karri log residues.

At the increased level, and working concurrently with sawmilling the woodchip operation will still cut over markedly less area than that required for sawmilling.

# 10. STATE FORESTS

## *Over-cutting*

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

- (1) What is the rationale for over-cutting our forests to save employment when such over-cutting only staves off the day of mill closure?
- (2) As it has been stated that the softwood plantations which will come on-stream in quantity in 1985, will replace hard timber saw mills closed down because of the depletion of saw log resources—
  - (a) will such softwood mills be in the same general area as the obsolete hardwood mills;
  - (b) will the softwood mills require the same order of labour as do the present hardwood mills or will new mills be automated to a greatly increased extent?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The present overcut in the hardwood forest is designed not only to maintain employment in the sawmilling industry but also in the many allied trades. The forests can withstand over-cutting for a period because the situation can be retrieved by a reduced hardwood cut as alternative timber sources become available. These should provide an equivalent level of alternative employment.
- (2) (a) Yes.  
(b) Pine sawmills will probably be automated to a greater extent than present hardwood mills and will therefore require less men. However, a greater number of men will be required in pine log production than in hardwood log production.

# 11. TIMBER MILLS

## *Displaced Workers*

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

- (1) Further to parts (3), (5) and (6) of question on notice 33 asked on 8th May, if it is planned to overcome the severe over-cutting of our hardwood forests by gradually phasing out some sawmills, what co-ordinated planning is intended to lessen the impact on displaced timber workers?

- (2) What consultations have already taken place, or are intended to take place, with the Department of Labour and Industry, the sawmill industry, and the respective unions?

- (3) What social/economic studies have been undertaken?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) This will receive detailed consideration during the forthcoming revision of the Forests Department general working plan.
- (2) Consultations with the timber industry have taken place periodically and will be continued. Consultations with the other bodies mentioned will be arranged if considered necessary under (1).
- (3) Detailed social/economic studies have not been undertaken to date.

# 12. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## *Coastal Areas: Policies*

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

Further to part (3) of question on notice 4 and part (1) (a) of question on notice 5 asked on 11th September, 1975, since the Kalbarri-Esperance coast is recognised by most people to comprise the south-west coast, what consideration has the EPA given to developing an environmental policy concerning other portions of the Western Australian coast, particularly the west Pilbara coast?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

This will be considered in due course.

# 13. CONSERVATION THROUGH RESERVES COMMITTEE REPORT

## *Hamersley Range National Park*

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

- (1) (a) Further to question on notice 10 asked on 11th September, 1975, since the Conservation through Reserves Committee's 1974 report is incomplete, and since the EPA has made this report available to the public for comment, could the recommendations made in regard to the proposed excision of the Hamersley Range National Park be tabled, and made available on request to the interested public;

- (b) is there any particular reason why this information cannot be made available now, without details of the EPA's assessment, since this has been the case in regard to the 1974 report?
- (2) What were the reasons for omitting from the report any reference to the committee's examination and recommendations on the land-swap proposal?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) I refer the Member to the answer given to question 18 of the 7th October, 1975.

#### 14. ROAD CONSTRUCTION

##### *Blast Furnace Slag*

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

- (1) What quantities of blast furnace slag, either from the Wundowie or Kwinana works, has the Main Roads Department used during the period 1966-1975?
- (2) (a) What materials testing, either in the laboratory or field situation, have been undertaken to ascertain its possible use in road construction;
- (b) in what aspects of road construction is a use for blast furnace slag likely to be found;
- (c) if no studies have been undertaken to date, are any proposed?
- (3) (a) What are the factors likely to limit the widespread use of blast furnace slag for road construction in the State;
- (b) is one of these the distance from the resource site to the construction project?
- (4) What is the quantity of such slag that could be used annually by the Main Roads Department for road construction in the foreseeable future?
- (5) What quantity could be used annually by other road-making instrumentalities?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Limited quantities only from Kwinana.
- (2) (a) Sufficient standard laboratory tests and some field trials have been undertaken to determine the suitability of Kwinana slag for road construction. No testing of Wundowie slag has been undertaken.

(b) In pavement and shoulder construction.

- (c) No tests of Wundowie slag are proposed at this stage.
- (3) (a) Cost in comparison to locally occurring materials.
- (b) Yes, to the extent that this increases the cost.
- (4) and (5) Requirements would vary depending on the work in the area and cost on the site compared with other available materials.

#### 15. LANCELIN-CLIFFHEAD ROAD

##### *Environmental Protection: Consultations*

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

- (1) Further to question on notice 29 asked on 9th September, 1975, particularly part (2), since a preferred alignment has been determined for a future Lancelin-Cliffhead coastal highway, does the Main Roads Department intend to consult the W.A. National Parks Board at an early stage in regard to any possible involvement of the Nambung National Park, and any other reserves managed by the board?
- (2) While there may be time for consultation with the EPA and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, does the Main Roads Department in fact intend to consult with these authorities at an early date in regard to the alignment of this road between Leeman and Jurien?
- (3) After studying the Conservation Through Reserves Committee's recommendations, does the Main Roads Department in fact intend to consult the EPA and Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in regard to the Leeman-Coolimba section?
- (4) When does the Main Roads Department intend commencing work on the Leeman-Coolimba section, and what is the source of funds?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Planning has just reached the stage where discussions can take place with other bodies.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) It is anticipated that work between Leeman and Coolimba will commence in November. Funds are to be provided by Western Titanium NL in the terms of its agreement.

16.

**BUSSELL HIGHWAY***Realignment*

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

- (1) (a) Further to question on notice 20 asked on 11th September, 1975, adjacent to Sussex location 2173 where a short section of Bussell Highway has been re-aligned just south of Margaret River, what are the widths of—
  - (i) the bitumen pavement;
  - (ii) the shoulders on each side;
  - (iii) the drains on each side?
- (b) (i) What consideration has been given to the future use of the truncated section of road at this point, which appears to have once been part of an old railway alignment leading to the former Skeleton Bridge;
  - (ii) in line with the Government's stated policy to develop roadside facilities for travellers, has any consideration been given to develop picnic areas off the main road on this truncated section, particularly in conjunction with reserve 23207?
- (2) (a) Further to the article headed "Don't touch our tuart forest, says council", in the *Busselton-Margaret River Times* of 31st July, 1975, what is the nature of the verge "improvements" by the Main Roads Department referred to along the Bussell Highway through the Ludlow tuart forest;
- (b) from its junction with the new alignment just south of the Ludlow River, what length of the old alignment is to be subjected to verge "improvement";
- (c) has the Minister been approached by the Busselton Shire Council, expressing its concern over the matter;
- (d) if so, what assurance has the Minister given that the Main Roads Department will not remove stately tuart trees and picturesque undergrowth along this scenic corridor;
- (e) does the Main Roads Department intend submitting any improvement proposals to the EPA, particularly in view of recommendation 8 at pages 1-13 of the Conservation

Through Reserves Committee report, and for the Forests Department?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) (i) 7.4 m.  
(ii) 2.4 m (each).  
(iii) 3 to 4 m.
- (b) (i) A portion of the old reserve actually severs two properties. It was suggested to the Department of Lands and Surveys that the reserve should be closed and disposed of to the adjoining owners. It is understood that action is proceeding along these lines.  
(ii) No.
- (2) (a) Reconditioning of the existing road shoulders.
- (b) 2 km have been reconditioned.
- (c) So far as I am aware, no.
- (d) and (e) The Main Roads Department has removed none of the stately tuart trees and as works were confined to the immediate vicinity of the sealed pavement very little of the undergrowth was touched. The work is complete and was of such a minor nature that reference to EPA was not considered to be needed.

17.

**TIMBER MILLS***Boyup Brook Area*

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

- (1) Further to parts (4) and (6) of question on notice 33 asked on 8th May, 1975, how many mills lie within a 15-kilometre radius of Boyup Brook?
- (2) How many of these mills are experiencing or have experienced problems of maintaining operations on diminishing forest resources within the last three years?
- (3) Which of these mills have been granted new areas of State forest from which to obtain sawlogs; and in each case which forest blocks do these concessions cover; and what dates were the concessions granted?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

## 18. LAMB MARKETING BOARD

*Effect of Meat Commission*

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

Will the proposed meat commission affect the operations and activities of the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board and if so, in what way and to what extent?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr OLD) replied:

The proposed Meat Commission will not affect the operations and activities of the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board.

19. *This question was postponed.*

## 20. MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS INSTRUCTORS ACT

*Regulations*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Have any regulations been made under clause 14 (i) (h) of the Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Act?

(2) If so, can he advise when these were promulgated?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) No.

(2) Answered by (1).

## 21. PROSTITUTION

*No. 10 Cambridge Street*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Minister for Police:

(1) Are the premises known as No. 10 Cambridge Street, Leederville, being used as a brothel?

(2) If "Yes" who is the person responsible for the management of the premises?

(3) How long have the police been aware of the nature of the premises and what action, if any, has been taken against the person managing and the persons assisting in the management of the premises?

(4) If no action has been taken, why not?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) to (4) On 24th September, 1975, Irene Sarita Millers was charged with keeping the premises for the purposes of prostitution and Angela White with assisting in the management of the premises.

## 22. KALGOORLIE ABORIGINAL RESERVE

*Telephone*

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

(1) When was the phone link between the Kalgoorlie Aboriginal reserve and the Kalgoorlie police station disconnected?

(2) Why was the phone service disconnected?

(3) With the appointment of a full-time caretaker of the reserve now to take place, will the phone link be restored?

(4) If not, why not?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(1) and (2) The phone link between the Kalgoorlie residential reserve and the Police Station had not been officially disconnected, but the phone head has been removed, apparently stolen.

No immediate reconnection was made as the reserve has not had permanent residents on it in the last 12 months.

The PMG is currently replacing the phone set as it is anticipated that the reserve will accommodate permanent residents in the near future.

(3) Yes.

(4) Answered by (3).

## 23. PROSTITUTION

*Inquiry: Interview with Supporters*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Minister for Police:

(1) As it was his presumption that calls made by the police in connection with letters which had been written to Ministers with reference to an inquiry into prostitution were made "in the normal course of police duty", is it also his presumption that during such calls it would be in the normal course of police duty for them to ask the persons on whom they called whether those persons proposed to give evidence to a Royal Commission?

(2) If "Yes" what business is it of the police to know the lawful intentions of the citizens being interviewed?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

(1) and (2) I advise the Leader of the Opposition that at the time of his asking a question without notice I had no knowledge of the letters to which he referred nor what action was being taken in

respect of them; therefore I presumed that any calls referred to were of a routine nature.

I invited the Leader of the Opposition to be more specific in order that I might advise him further. He has so far not elected so to do.

Since answering his question I have read in the newspapers that one person, a Mrs Russel-Browne, has been interviewed and a second person, Mrs Carol Cornwell, had written to the Premier complaining about "some alleged action by the police."

Neither person has complained to me of any intimidatory or untoward action by the police.

I believe that the public statement by Assistant Commissioner Taylor that "there was nothing sinister in what we did—it was routine", substantiates my previous presumption. I am content to let that matter lie there.

It would seem to me that questions the police might ask in any inquiry relating to any letters referred to them would relate to the contents of those letters. Such contents could conceivably embrace a variety of subjects. I understand that people questioned in these circumstances have a right to decline to answer.

## 24. ROAD TRANSPORT

### *Perth-Leeman: Food Cartage*

Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that during the rock lobster season five fish company trucks cart foodstuffs and supplies including mail into Leeman for residents not necessarily fishermen?
- (2) Is he aware of complaints that—
  - (a) this is a breach of the transport license under which these trucks operate;
  - (b) this competition with local business people disrupts continuity of a permanent service for the area resulting in unsatisfactory service for permanent residents whom the local businesses endeavour to supply?
- (3) In view of the pending population increase at Leeman as a result of Western Titanium building there for employees, will he have this practice stopped and so enable a satisfactory permanent service to become established?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Yes. One complaint has been made. However, if fish company trucks carry foodstuffs and supplies for residents who are not fishermen, it would be a breach of a license issued which permitted transport of goods for use or consumption by fishermen supplying fish or rock lobster.
  - (b) Yes. One person has complained but inquiries do not substantiate that the activities of fish trucks which are only minimal interfere with the operation of the regular licensed general goods service.
- (3) Special road patrols in the area have failed to reveal breaches of the Transport Commission Act. However, should breaches of the conditions of license by any operator be detected they will result in disciplinary action being initiated. Latest reports indicate that the licensed regular general goods operator is providing a satisfactory and viable service.

## 25. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### *Alcoa Alumina Refinery: Mud Lakes*

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

- (1) At pages 64-65 of the T. S. Martin report on the south-west corridor, reference is made to Alcoa's red mud "lakes". Does the EPA intend to initiate an examination of the proposed "obliteration" by these waste disposal areas of the "rather attractive low-lying wooded land" which would prevent any possibility of these valleys being used to create a linear regional park connecting Thompson Lake with the lower Serpentine River?
- (2) At pages 69 and 72 of the report, Alcoa's red mud lakes are referred to again. What consideration has been given to the suggested study of possible ways to use these waste disposal areas after their abandonment?
- (3) (a) What is the nature of studies being carried out in regard to the neutralisation of these waste disposal areas and who is undertaking the study;
  - (b) when is this study likely to be completed?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) The company, in liaison with the State, is undertaking on-going studies into various aspects of rehabilitation of the areas.

## 26. PORTS

### *Cockburn Sound: Berths and Jetties*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Will he table a plan of general proposals by the Fremantle Port Authority for the development of further berths and jetties in Cockburn Sound?
- (2) What is the present position in regard to these proposals?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes. Town Planning Department plans A384 and 387 are tabled as requested.
- (2) The CBH grain jetty is almost complete and it is intended to extend the berth servicing CSBP next. Both proposals are shown on plan A384.

*The plans were tabled (see paper No. 453.)*

## 27. TOWN PLANNING

### *Port Kennedy, and Bibra Lake Regional Open Space*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Has an outline plan been commenced in regard to proposed recreational development of Port Kennedy?
- (2) Have outline plans been prepared in regard to the development of regional open space in the vicinity of Bibra and North Lakes?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Preliminary investigations have commenced to have outline plans prepared.

## 28. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### *Underground Water Resources: Examination*

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

Further to question on notice 80 asked on 27th November, 1974, what examination has been undertaken of the future utilisation of underground water resources possibly reducing—

- (a) water tables presently drawn on by thousands of domestic bores for home gardening;

- (b) water levels in metropolitan lakes and wetland areas?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

A seminar organised jointly by the Environmental Protection Authority and CSIRO to discuss such issues is to be conducted on 10th-11th December, 1975.

## 29.

## TOWN PLANNING

### *Coastal Areas: Report*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) When is the report on coastal areas referred to by him at part (2) of question on notice 30 asked on 27th November, 1974, likely to be published?
- (2) Which Government agency has initiated and is co-ordinating its production?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) This information is not available to me.
- (2) The Environmental Protection Authority.

## 30.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### *Stormwater Runoff: Examination*

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

- (1) Has the EPA initiated any examination of the environmental impact of increased stormwater runoff from impervious urban surfaces, and proposals to drain areas, due to continued urban expansion of the Perth metropolitan region?
- (2) As the T. S. Martin report on the south-west corridor states that the imminent need for more urban land in that corridor "emphasises the importance of reassessing the value and future of wetlands to society", what co-ordinated assessment is presently being undertaken?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The matter is under review.

31. *This question was postponed.*

## 32.

## RAILWAYS

### *Bunbury-Perth Services*

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

On 10th September, 1975, in reply to question 1 asked by the Member for Murray he advised—

The Railways Department estimates the saving, due to the replacement of the "Bunbury

Belle" and "Bunbury Shopper" trains by road buses, at \$123 000 per annum.

Would he please advise—

- (a) how this figure was arrived at;
- (b) a breakdown of this figure;
- (c) the number of persons who travelled on these trains on a monthly basis for the six month period prior to the cancellation of the trains;
- (d) the number of persons who have travelled on buses for the same services since their introduction on a monthly basis;
- (e) the dates on which the trains were cancelled;
- (f) the date on which the MTT commenced to service the Mundijong area?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (a) to (f) The answer to this question is rather lengthy and I hand it to the Member.

### 33. POLICE

#### *Illegal Bookmakers*

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

- (1) Did he read a report which appeared in the *Daily News* of 2nd October, 1975, in connection with the Laurie Connell betting case at Kalgoorlie which included—

"The inquiry was one of the largest and most comprehensive in W.A. turf history. Illegal SP bookmakers operating in Perth were called before the stewards last week."?

- (2) If "Yes" will he please advise of any inquiries or action taken by the police into the activities of illegal bookmakers concerned?
- (3) If (2) is "none" will police inquiries be initiated in view of the fact that illegal bookmakers apparently known to the W.A. Turf Club stewards were called before the inquiry?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Inquiries are being conducted by police.
- (3) Answered by (2).

### 34. NORTH PARMELIA SCHOOL

#### *Tenders*

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

- (1) Further to his answer to question 34 of Tuesday, 7th October, with respect to planned extensions to the North Parmelia school would he list the specific works items for which tenders were called?
- (2) Is it intended to contract at this stage for all such items?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Tenders have been called and a contract is about to be signed for a cluster block of six classrooms and a covered assembly area.
- (2) A contract for the resource centre is to be negotiated.

### 35. SECURITIES INDUSTRY BILL

#### *Submissions and Validity*

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

- (1) Relevant to the Securities Industry Bill, will he table the submissions made to the Senate Committee by the State Governments indicating in each case the date of the submission and any comments made by the said committee thereon?
- (2) Will he list each of the most serious consequences to—
  - (a) the commercial community;
  - (b) the business community; and
  - (c) the public generally,
 which the Commonwealth Bill will have?
- (3) Will he list each of the substantial areas in which the constitutional validity of the Commonwealth Bill is extremely doubtful?
- (4) Will he state the actual provisions of the Commonwealth Corporations and Securities Industry Bill which have been the subject of considerable valid criticism in many areas in each case naming the person, firm, body or corporation, making such criticism?
- (5) (a) Will he table a copy of the offer to co-operate with the Commonwealth on a joint basis;
  - (b) if "No", why?
- (6) What were the areas of the business and commercial community which supported the making of the offer referred to in (5) above?
- (7) Why had the task of preparing new Securities Industry legislation been abandoned temporarily in 1973 and not resumed till 1975?

- (8) Which of the provisions in the Bill before this Parliament—
- were not originally agreed to by the four participating States unanimously and in each case what were the arguments and/or reasons for disagreement;
  - were not originally agreed to by Western Australia and for what reasons?
- (9) Why did each of the participating States agree to introduce legislation on a completely uniform basis and in the spring sessions of their respective Parliaments?
- (10) Except for legislation relating to agreements made between States and State instrumentalities and the Commonwealth—what other legislation exists which has been introduced into this Parliament at or about the same time as into other State Parliaments and on a completely uniform basis?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (10) In view of the comprehensive material and detail required to answer these questions, it is not possible to provide the information immediately. While the questions are appropriate, it is felt they could be more adequately dealt with and advice given during debate on the Bill.

### 36. CORPORATE AFFAIRS OFFICE

#### *Fees*

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

Relevant to the Companies Act Amendment Bill (No. 2), what is the estimated annual profit or loss which will be gained or incurred by this State under the proposed apportionment of the fees for—

- lodging annual returns;
- reservations of names; and
- searches?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

The fees to be divided between the four participating States are all introduced for the first time in the Bill now before the House. See items 25, 26, 36, 37, 38 and 54 of the proposed new second schedule.

- It is expected that the amount of additional revenue which will be received under the proposed apportionment of the new fee for lodging annual returns will more than offset the revenue lost as a result of the amendments to the principal Act which

no longer require certain companies (formerly called "foreign" companies but now "recognised" companies) to file annual returns or balance sheets.

- The fee for sending a notification of a reservation of a name to a participating State is new, and is in addition to the fee presently payable rather than in substitution for an existing fee.
- The fee for searches in participating States which is to be divided is for a new service.

However, there is no sufficient data from which any reasonably accurate estimate of the net increase in fees which is expected as a result of the introduction of these new fees and the subsequent apportionment can be made.

37.

### POLICE

#### *Interrogation of Suspects*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- Does he intend to put right the law by making provision for the attendance of an independent third person to be present whenever practicable when the police interrogate suspects?
- (a) If "No", why;  
(b) if "Yes", when?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- The present laws provide adequate protection for suspects.
- (a) and (b) Answered by (1).

38.

### CIGARETTES

#### *Advertising*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Is he still determined not to put right the law in respect of advertising of cigarettes until such time as the Australian Government provides him with leadership on this question?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The question is in such a form that it does not warrant a considered reply.

39.

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

#### *Policy*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- What is his policy in regard to corporal punishment being administered—  
(a) to persons under 18 years of age;

(b) to persons over 18 years of age?

(2) If in favour, in what form and in what circumstances?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(1) and (2) The Minister's policy is to abide by the law as provided in the Criminal Code, and Child Welfare Act and Regulations.

#### 40. HOMOSEXUALITY

##### *Legislation*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

(1) Is it the Government's intention to introduce legislation along the lines recommended by the Royal Commission into homosexuality or at all?

(2) (a) If "Yes" when;  
(b) If "No" why?

(3) What is the Government's policy on the question of homosexuality?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (3) As I previously stated, and as was reported in *The West Australian* on 18th March, 1975, the Government does not intend to initiate legislative action.

It is felt that the subject is essentially of a non-Party political nature and the Government's view was that Members should be free to vote according to their conscience, if a Private Member's Bill was introduced into the Parliament.

#### 41. OVERGOVERNMENT

##### *Corrective Action*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What steps has he taken thus far to put right the tendency to overrule and regulate our society and thereby—according to him—tending to make our people on-lookers instead of doers?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

As part of our policy, the Government is continually examining ways to reduce the modern tendency to overregulate and sap personal initiative.

#### 42. HIGH COURT AND PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS

##### *Government Participation*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

As to each of the appeals made to the High Court and Privy Council by or financed by his Government will he supply—

(a) the names of the parties to the proceedings;

(b) the appeal number;

(c) the date the appeal was made and where applicable;

(d) the date judgment was delivered;

(e) the expected hearing date; and

(f) the date or approximate date upon which judgment is expected to be delivered?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(a) to (f) —

##### *Appeals to the High Court*

1/74:

Queen (S.C.S.) v. G. DeMarte (Corser & Corser)

Made 29/1/74

Application for special leave to appeal against Judgment of the Full Court of W.A. given on 8th January, 1974. Notice of Discontinuance filed 2/8/74.

4/75:

The Registrar of Titles (S.C.S.) v. Francesco & Alma Frazon (Martella & Ozich) and Finance Corporation of Australia Limited (Stone James & Co.)

Made 7/3/75

Heard on 4 and 5/9/75

Decision given 9/10/75—"Appeal Dismissed".

Privy Council

Nil.

43.

#### HOUSING

##### *Bayswater: Development*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is it the intention of the State Housing Commission to redevelop a part or the whole of its estate in the vicinity of lot 82 Francis Street, Bayswater?

(2) If "Yes" will the Minister indicate—

(a) the size of the area which it is proposed to redevelop;

(b) when the redevelopement is likely to occur;

(c) the style of housing to be incorporated in the redevelopement;

(d) whether or not the people currently living in the area will have the opportunity to be resettled in the same general vicinity after redevelopement?

- (3) In view of the age and the poor state of repair of some homes in the area will the Minister indicate—

(a) what arrangements, if any, have been made to upgrade the homes;

(b) what particular features will be included in any upgrading programme?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) I have asked the Acting General Manager of the State Housing Commission to inform the Member regarding the subject of his question, should he contact the Commission to discuss the matter.

#### 44. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

##### *Transfer to Government*

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

- (1) Which pre-school centres throughout the State have been transferred to the State Government from the control of local parent community groups since March 1974?

(2) Which particular pre-school centre administrative committees—

(a) have approached the State Government;

(b) are currently negotiating with the State Government, in respect of any decision to transfer the centres to the control of the State Government?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Negotiations are currently proceeding between the Education Department and a number of local authorities and pre-school committees, and it would be premature to attempt to analyse the outcome at this time.

45. *This question was postponed.*

#### 46. DOG ACT

##### *Committee of Review*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Who were the members of the committee appointed to review the Dog Act?
- (2) When were the committee's recommendations made to the Government?
- (3) Will he table the details of the committee's recommendations?
- (4) In view of—
- (a) the growing menace of the "dog problem" in the metropolitan area;

- (b) the Minister's undertaking in his reply to my letter of October 1974 in which he stated, *inter alia*,

The recommendations of this committee are currently being examined with the object of introducing up-to-date legislation relating to dogs at the earliest possible time,

will he indicate when legislation will be introduced to amend the Dog Act?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The committee comprised representatives of the following—

Local Government Association,  
Country Shire Councils' Association,

Australian Veterinary Association,

RSPCA,

Greyhound Racing Control Board,

Dogs' Refuge Home,

Combined Dog Control Committee,

Canine Association of W.A. (Inc.),

Agriculture Protection Board,

Police Department,

Public Health Department,

Agriculture Department,

Town Planning Department, and  
Local Government Department.

- (2) The committee did not formally present recommendations to me. However, recommendations from its meetings were incorporated in a proposal for legislation submitted to me by my department in October, 1974.

(3) No. See (2).

- (4) Draft legislation has been prepared and is subject to revision. It is intended to introduce a Bill as soon as possible.

#### 47. HOUSING

##### *Pensioners: Redcliffe Units*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What will be the weekly rental charged for the pensioner "bed sitter" units in Redcliffe—

(a) between the 8th October, 1975, and the 6th April, 1976;

(b) after the 6th April, 1976; for pensioners who are entitled to a maximum rebate arising from the fact that their pension is their sole source of income?

- (2) What will be the estimated economic rent for the above mentioned units during the same two periods?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The rent payable by a single unit pensioner occupying "bed sitter" accommodation is the equivalent of either—

- (i) supplementary rent allowance; or
- (ii) assessed rent based on the rebate code,

whichever is the higher.

This policy is consistent with the Commonwealth intention as enunciated in the States Grants (Dwellings for Pensioners) Act, 1974.

The rent payable by these tenants is currently \$6.00 per week, to which there will be no alteration until the scale of rebated rents is amended in conformity with any movement in the State's minimum wage. In effect, these tenants are charged \$1.00 per week against their pension, with the balance of \$5.00 being the rent allowance they receive from the Commonwealth.

- (2) The estimated economic rent for these units is \$12.60 per week.

48.

## HOUSING

### *Rent Increases*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is he aware of the widespread concern and anxiety experienced by State Housing Commission tenants in the Belmont and Bayswater estates where rents have increased by 70% since the election of the Court Government in March 1974?
- (2) Does the Minister approve of intentions to further increase rent levels in April 1976 (which according to the information supplied by the State Housing Commission to its tenants will mean an increase of rents exceeding 100% in the first two years of the life of the present Government)?
- (3) What is the current minimum rent (excluding rebate considerations) charged for—
- (a) four bedroom;
  - (b) three bedroom;
  - (c) two bedroom;

units of accommodation in the Belmont and Bayswater estates?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes. The increase in rentals is being phased in in two moieties, namely October, 1975, and April, 1976. Substantial losses have been evidenced in the rental operations during the prolonged period when rentals were not increased to match the increasing cost of outgoings and, notwithstanding the current increases it is estimated that the State Housing Commission will subsidise the operation to the extent of \$2.3 million during the twelve month cycle commencing October, 1975.
- (3) Rentals applicable in the metropolitan area from 6th October, 1975, are—

	Recent construction	Older construction	Other construction	Sims Cooke
4 BR	\$20.30	\$17.20	...	...
3 BR	\$18.60	\$15.60	\$11.00	\$11.70
2 BR	\$16.90	\$14.10	\$11.30	\$11.00

49.

## "C"-CLASS HOSPITALS

### *Acquisition*

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

- (1) Was the Government aware that Kareeba hospital was the only "C"-class hospital in the Belmont district when the decision was made to purchase this hospital and change its function?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of other privately-owned "C"-class hospitals in the metropolitan area which are encountering financial difficulty?
- (3) (a) During the past 12 months, has the Government received offers from owners of "C"-class hospitals other than Kareeba hospital offering the hospital for sale on lease to the Government;
- (b) if so, will he provide the details?
- (4) Is it a fact that the "Tibradden Stud Farm" of Great Eastern Highway, Redcliffe, has offered its premises for sale to the Government?
- (5) If so will the Minister indicate—
- (a) the price sought for the property;
  - (b) the amount of land involved;
  - (c) whether or not the Government is interested;
  - (d) the purpose for which the Government may purchase the property; and
  - (e) whether or not this property is affected by roadworks for the proposed Beechboro-Gosnells Highway?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes, but there are other nursing homes close to the border of the Belmont Shire Council.
- (2) Unfortunately I am only too painfully aware of this, which has resulted from the Commonwealth Government's announced policy of putting private nursing homes and hospitals out of business.
- (3) (a) and (b) Several nursing homes have been offered to the Government but in the interests of those involved I am not prepared to identify them.
- (4) Yes, the Tibbradden Stud Farm was offered to the Government but, for various reasons, the offer was refused.
- (5) (a) to (e). Not applicable.

## 50. KAREEBA NURSING HOME

*Use: Shire Objection*

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

- (1) Will the Minister explain why his department did not consult with the Belmont Shire Council before proceeding with plans to establish a home for profoundly mentally retarded patients at Kareeba hospital?
- (2) In view of the Belmont Shire Council's publicly declared opposition to the Government's moves to change the purpose of Kareeba hospital, does the Government propose to proceed to the extent of overriding the shire's town planning scheme in the event of that Council refusing to initiate an alteration to the scheme?
- (3) Will the Minister confirm the accuracy of the statement which he is alleged to have made at a meeting of the Belmont Shire Council "... that if the Shire persisted with its opposition to the Government's plans for Kareeba, the hospital once vacated would remain empty ...?"

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The Minister explained why at a meeting in Belmont where the Member was present.
- (2) This is a matter which is currently before the court.
- (3) The Minister did not make a statement to that effect.

## 51. STATE FORESTS

*Dieback Disease: Impact*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Forests:

If an answer to the spread of "jarrah dieback" is not discovered or developed what is the estimated life of Western Australia's jarrah forest?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Indeterminate.

52.

## FORESTS ACT

*Promulgation of Regulations*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) When was the Forests Act Amendment Bill of 1974 proclaimed?
- (2) Have all associated new regulations pertaining to this measure been presented to Parliament?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 22nd day of January, 1975.
- (2) Regulations pertaining to this measure are drafted but not yet gazetted.

53.

## STATE FORESTS

*Dieback Disease: Control Measures*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Forests:

In the light of the Minister's statement (*Hansard* page 2399 of 1974) that "... the EPA has stressed the need for a substantial research effort into methods of controlling or arresting the spread of 'dieback' ..." will he indicate—

- (a) the current nature, scope (including the personnel) and budget allocation of the department's research effort, to control or arrest the spread of dieback;
- (b) details of the Government's proposals to mount a more intensified research effort to control or arrest the disease?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (a) The current nature, scope (including personnel) and budget allocation of basic research is essentially as described in answer to a similar question asked by the Member for Ascot, No. 8 for Tuesday, 29th October, 1974. The basic research projects are long term and short term changes in their nature or scope is unlikely.

Further studies are proposed on disease dispersal, economic impact of the disease, rehabilitation and the spread and intensification mechanisms of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

- (b) Operational research has markedly expanded to study implementation of measures proposed in the Forests Act Amendment Act, 1974, disease mapping procedures, development of safe operational

procedures, administrative control measures for forest users and infection sources and hygiene procedures.

(b) where the dental inspections are carried out at present?

(2) Are they at present visiting schools within the Mundaring electorate?

(3) If not, why not?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(1) (a) Eight.

(b) At the schools.

(2) Yes.

(3) Not applicable.

54.

## STATE FORESTS

### *Dieback Disease: Environmental Study*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Forests:

With reference to his statements in his second reading speech to the Forests Act Amendment Bill (*Hansard* pp 2398-2399) wherein he stated *inter alia*—

(a) "... this is an important amendment and is proposed following a thorough examination of the disease situation currently faced in the State forests..."; and

(b) "A recent review of the overall position with relation to this disease, undertaken by the Forests Department has been examined by the EPA..."—

(1) Will he table the maps and documents which comprise the thorough examination of the disease situation and the overall review of the position as forwarded to the EPA?

(2) Will he table the EPA's report on or findings associated with the study referred to above?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(1) No. The maps and documents which comprise the thorough examination of the disease situation and the overall review of the position as forwarded to EPA contain data which relates to Part II of the general working plan which is confidential.

(2) Yes. The findings of the Environmental Protection Authority are submitted for tabling.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 454).*

55.

## SCHOOLS

### *Mundaring Electorate: Dental Checks*

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

(1) With reference to my question of 19th March re dental inspections of students attending schools in the Mundaring electorate, would he advise—

(a) how many schools have been visited this year;

56.

## HOSPITALS

### *Development Programme Funds*

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

Referring to question 47 of 13th August, 1975 regarding a hospital programme, is it now possible to advise of details please?

Mr RIDGE replied:

No. The programme has not yet been approved by both Commonwealth and State Governments and therefore, as indicated, no details can be made available.

57.

## POWER STATIONS

### *Coal: Rail Cartage*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

(1) Referring to his reply to question 12(2) page 2544 *Hansard* 12, Thursday, 4th September, 1975, will he advise his source of information which indicates that one of the provisions concerning the ability to burn coal at both East Perth and South Fremantle depended on the ability of the WAGR to handle the increased transport?

(2) Was this information obtained from the WAGR?

(3) Have there been any recent instances where the WAGR has indicated its inability to handle wagon loads of coal from Collie?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) The source of my information containing the assessment of the factors upon which the ability to burn coal depends has been the State instrumentality for which I am responsible in the capacity in which the question has been directed to me. In this case (referring to question 13 on 4th September, 1975,) it is the State Energy Commission.

(2) During the period of changeover from oil to coal burning, there was increased demand on coal mines and WAGR from other users as well. Several meetings

took place between officers of WAGR, mining companies and the SEC to deal with mutual problems resulting from increased orders. Information was exchanged at these meetings and in subsequent discussion.

- (3) There is no occasion for Westrail to indicate its inability or otherwise without request except by giving notice of rare occasions of derailment.

## 58. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

### *Farming Companies*

Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Can a registered family farming company register more than one motor vehicle in the company name or must the registration be in the name of a nominee member only?
- (2) Can a registered family farming partnership register more than one vehicle in the partnership name or must the registration be in the name of a nominee member only?
- (3) In the case of a fine for one offence under the Road Maintenance Tax Act, can more than one partner be fined even though the vehicle is registered in an individual name only?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Any number of vehicles may be registered to an owner. For the purposes of "owner" under the Road Traffic Act, vehicles may be registered under the name of a body corporate.

Where a family farming company or a family farming partnership is not a body corporate, one person of the company or partnership must be nominated as owner for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act.

- (2) Answered by (1).  
(3) No.

## 59. TOWN PLANNING

### *Bedforddale Rural Zone: Applications*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Local Government:

With respect to the Bedforddale special rural zone and with special reference to his answer to question 49(a) of Wednesday, 8th

October, were applications made to the local authority concerned prior to the present application to rezone any or all of lots 471, 510 and 514?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

In submitting the proposed amendment to rezone lots 471, 510 and 514, council made no mention of any prior proposals for rezoning which it may have received. I suggest the Member contact the Armadale-Kelmscott Shire Council.

## 60. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

### *Increase in Numbers*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

What was the extent of the increase in staff, expressed numerically and in percentage terms, from 1st July, 1974 to 30th June, 1975 in the following areas—

- (a) teaching staff in the Education Department;
- (b) State Public Service;
- (c) nursing staff in Government hospitals;
- (d) salaried persons employed ministerially in State Government departments;
- (e) persons employed under contract to various departments or Ministers?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (a) Teaching staff in the Education Department (including part-time employees)—

Increase			
1/7/74	30/6/75	No.	%
10 575*	12 131	1 556	14.71

\* excludes 347 staff transferred to the Teacher Education Authority.

- (b) State Public Service (including part-time employees)—

Increase			
1/7/74	30/6/75	No.	%
11 768	12 034	266	2.26

- (c) Nursing staff in Government hospitals (including part-time employees)—

Increase			
1/7/74	30/6/75	No.	%
7 059	7 726	667	9.44

- (d) Salaried persons employed ministerially in State Government departments (including part-time employees)—

Increase			
1/7/74	30/6/75	No.	%
1 864	2 059	195	10.46

(e) Persons employed under contract to various departments or Ministers—

		Increase	
1/7/74	30/6/75	No.	%
35	38	3	8.57

NOTE: (d) and (e) cover persons employed in Public Service departments.

## QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

### 1. GOLDMINING

#### *Problems of Industry*

Mr GREWAR, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Government aware of the current problems of the goldmining industry?
- (2) Is it currently in touch with the mining companies about the matter?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, we are aware of the problems.
- (2) We are in touch with the company and had been prior to the meetings it has had in Canberra today. The company as well as the Commonwealth Government knows the State Government stands ready and willing to enter into any discussions to deal with this situation which currently confronts the industry due partly to the pressure of escalation of costs, and due partly to the fall in the world price of gold.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Before you sit down, would you tell us whether you received adequate notice of the question?

### 2. MINING BILL

#### *Country Party Submissions*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Agriculture:

I seek your guidance, Sir, in regard to a question without notice sent to the Minister for Agriculture who unfortunately is not present today.

The SPEAKER: The member for Clontarf asks whether or not there is an answer to a question without notice which was forwarded to the office of the Minister for Agriculture.

Sir Charles Court (for Mr OLD) replied:

In answer to the member for Clontarf, I have no knowledge of the question. The only question I received from the Minister for Agriculture was question 18, which I answered; and I asked that

question 19 be deferred. I suggest the honourable member put the question on the notice paper for Tuesday.

Mr MAY: You may recall, Mr Speaker, that the Clerk sent this question to the Minister for Agriculture. I was requested to put it on the notice paper yesterday but because of lack of time it was decided to send it to the Minister. A similar situation exists at this point of time.

The SPEAKER: In explanation, it is true the member for Clontarf saw me yesterday and we discussed with the staff the matter of his question without notice. The staff delivered the question to the Minister's office. However, there has obviously been some holdup in the Minister's office and the only course to follow is to put the question on the notice paper.

### 3.

### HOUSING

#### *Bayswater Development*

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Housing:

My question relates to question 43 on today's notice paper. In view of the Minister's suggestion that I should get in touch with the General Manager of the State Housing Commission, and in the light of the fact that I have sought this information in response to approaches from constituents, will the Minister give me an undertaking that the information I seek will be provided in writing so that I can pass it on?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The honourable member's question on the notice paper relates to a redevelopment. This morning I discussed the matter with Mr McKenna, the Acting General Manager of the State Housing Commission, following which I would like the honourable member to contact Mr McKenna because the information is available but is not easily available in a written form. We would like to show the honourable member some plans, which are available if he contacts the commission. Mr McKenna informed me he had invited the honourable member to call on him in relation to other matters and the honourable member has not contacted him. On this occasion, if he calls on Mr McKenna the information will be available for him.

#### 4. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND PROVINCES

##### Enrolments

Mr O'NEIL (Minister for Works): On Tuesday last two questions were asked—one by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and one by the member for Cockburn—relative to electoral enrolments. I indicated at that time the information would be made available next week but, realising it is a matter of some interest to members, I will table, with your permission, Mr Speaker, such information as is now available.

I point out to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the answer to part (2) of his question is not yet available but will be made available next week.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 455).*

#### SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE AND GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PRECEDENCE

##### Wednesdays

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [2.53 p.m.]: I move—

That on Wednesday, 15th October, and on each Wednesday thereafter the House shall, unless otherwise ordered, meet for the despatch of business at 2.15 p.m. and that Government Business shall take precedence of all Motions and Orders of the Day on each such Wednesday from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

Members will appreciate that at this stage of the session it is customary to move a motion of this kind, or alternatively to suspend the priority of private members' business on certain days and at certain times. In the last few years an experiment has been conducted, and seems to have been reasonably successful; that is, instead of having a complete cutout of private members' business, by meeting at 2.15 p.m. instead of 4.30 p.m. on Wednesdays the whole of that afternoon from 2.15 to 6.15 p.m., excluding the time for formal business, can be devoted to private members' business.

It has been my desire to allow the maximum amount of time for private members' business and to avoid, if possible, the old system of a complete shutout—that is what it amounted to—once the axe fell on this priority. So far as the Government is concerned, we would like to feel we can, with co-operation on both sides, continue that practice for this session. If it has to be changed again because of the pressure of business, it will be a matter for consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

The other matter I want to mention relates to Thursday evenings. It is customary for the House to sit after tea on Thursday nights when it is necessary to clean up the business of the House, and possibly to sit on Fridays as well on certain occasions towards the end of the session. I realise the problems which some members, particularly those in remote areas, experience in respect of Thursday evenings, and it is our desire to minimise Thursday evening sittings. Where possible, notice will be given in advance.

I hope we will not have a situation where an emergency arises at, say, 6.15 p.m. on a Thursday, when no notice can be given. I realise the inconvenience and irritation it causes. I would not like to say there will be no Thursday night sittings for the rest of the session—that would be over-optimistic. When we see how the notice paper is going over the next couple of weeks, I can confer with the Leader of the Opposition about the extended hours required either on Thursdays or Fridays.

Mr Davies: How many more Bills have you got to bring in?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I hope we will be finalising on Tuesday the list of Bills to be introduced this session, and I will give an indication at the earliest possible date to the Leader of the Opposition, and then to the House.

Mr May: Does that include the Mining Bill?

Sir CHARLES COURT: We will advise about that Bill at the appropriate time.

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [2.57 p.m.]: Naturally enough, private members are keen to ensure that ample time is provided for discussion of those matters which from time to time they find it necessary to bring forward. After many years of experience I have noted that private members are very concerned when a motion of this kind comes forward, which restricts their opportunities to deal with the private matters which are more or less dear to their hearts.

Nevertheless, it is realised that Government business is entitled to take precedence over private members' business and that it is within the competence and power of the Government to put forward and have carried a different motion to the effect that as from a certain date Government business will take precedence over private members' business on all sitting days. This motion does not mean that. The Government is prepared to provide time for discussion of private members' business on Wednesdays—truly enough, not as much time as has hitherto been provided but the motion nevertheless provides some time for private members' business. In those circumstances, it behoves us to make the best possible use of that time—

Mr Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr J. T. TONKIN: —to ensure those very important matters receive the consideration of the House which they deserve.

Private members who have business on the notice paper would naturally be keen to ensure there is an opportunity for a decision to be made on that business. Having regard for the reduction in the time available, and provided the Opposition limits the amount of new private members' business which is coming forward, I would like to ask the Premier whether he is prepared to do what he can to ensure an opportunity is given for discussion of the private members' business which is on the notice paper, instead of our reaching a stage at the end of the session where we are endeavouring to deal with half a dozen orders of the day in a matter of an hour or two.

Apart from that, I accept that during the whole of my period in Parliament it has been the practice for Governments to try to limit towards the end of the session the amount of time which is devoted to private members' business so that Government business can take precedence. However, I am wondering, Mr Speaker, whether the Government is endeavouring to adjourn Parliament earlier than is normal in anticipation of the possibility of a Federal election. The Premier is not one to go to sleep and fail to plan ahead, and it seems to me that having regard for Government business on the notice paper, it will not take very long to clean it up, more especially as it seems extremely unlikely that the Mining Bill will see the light of day for further discussion.

Mr Skidmore: It is right at the bottom of the shaft!

Mr J. T. TONKIN: In view of that it is my opinion that Government business could be cleaned up fairly readily, unless the Government has some controversial measures up its sleeve which it is likely to bring in at a later stage, and which will take a considerable time for discussion. If there is not to be a large amount of additional Government business, then there would appear to me to be no other reason for trying to adjourn Parliament early, other than that the Premier wants to be free to engage in a Federal election. Naturally enough, if his colleagues in the other States are thinking that way, he will be fully advised as to their intentions and he will play along with them in order to enable them and himself to gain the greatest possible advantage from that manoeuvre. However, I just mention that matter as it may bring forward some reaction from members of the Government.

I say most definitely that there is no justification for any Government to adjourn State Parliament early and prevent the proper discussion of important business in order to enable the members of the Government to take part in an election which could be brought on before its proper time.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [3.02 p.m.]: The Leader of the Opposition gives me some hope—

Mr May: You want plenty of that!

Sir CHARLES COURT: —because apparently he accepts the generally conceded view in Canberra that there will be an election. I wish I could be given some assurance of it. Contrary to what he says, rather than a Government of our persuasion wanting to be out of session while a Federal election takes place, it would be just the reverse. However, that would not be prompting or in any way influencing our decision as to when this session of the State Parliament ends.

I hope within the next few days to be able to indicate reasonably clearly to members of the Opposition the legislation still to be introduced. I think last session we estimated this with considerable accuracy. Some of the Bills yet to be introduced are quite important, and I hope Parliament will remain in session until these important measures can be dealt with in the proper way.

I would not like the Leader of the Opposition to assume that the amount of business on the notice paper is an indication of the amount of legislation and the importance of that legislation yet to be dealt with. There are some very important measures still to be considered this session, and in any case, some Bills on the notice paper—to say nothing of the Budget consideration—are of vital importance and could take some time to discuss.

So far as the other point he raised is concerned—that is, this vexed question that is forever with us about private members' business having reasonable consideration—of course it has plagued everybody as long as I can remember and long before that. I believe the Leader of the Opposition will remember the memorable occasion when his former leader said to me at 3.00 o'clock one morning—after I had waited for weeks for a very important motion, or at least important in my opinion, to be called on—"If you want to make yourself very unpopular with your own friends, we can deal with that matter now." I got the message, and I knew what would happen to me if I spent the next 1½ hours dealing with my motion while I kept everybody back, including my own colleagues. However, the country has survived even though that matter was not discussed!

I hope we can have a well-ordered ending to the session. In my opinion the last session finished in a reasonable manner, and only one or two motions did not receive proper consideration, although at least they were voted on. So I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition that within reasonable limits—and he has to acknowledge that Governments have responsibilities in these matters—we will

endeavour to see that private members' business has a chance to be heard. The only reservation I make is that because of the system which we have to follow it is competent for members to introduce new business continually. Under our Standing Orders this new business receives precedence over the other private members items in the notice paper—at least until it is introduced—and it is something over which I have no control, and over which I would not seek to have any control. That is entirely a matter for the Opposition. When we were in Opposition I would say to my own colleagues that if they wanted to waste time on private members' days, that was their problem and they could not blame the Government.

Mr May: Do we have a target date at the moment, Mr Premier?

Sir CHARLES COURT: No.

Question put and passed.

#### BILLS (4): RETURNED

1. Recording of Evidence Bill.
2. Auction Sales Act Amendment Bill.
3. Evidence Act Amendment Bill.
4. Health Education Council Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr Clarko, leave of absence for three weeks, granted to Mr O'Connor (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) on the ground of urgent public business.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### Third Reading

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [3.08 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

##### Ayes—21

Mr Blaikie	Mr Nanovich
Sir Charles Court	Mr O'Neill
Mrs Craig	Mr Ridge
Mr Crane	Mr Rushton
Dr Dadour	Mr Shalders
Mr Grayden	Mr Sodeman
Mr Grewar	Mr Stephens
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Thompson
Mr Laurence	Mr Young
Mr McPharlin	Mr Clarko
Mr Mensaros	

(Teller;)

##### Noes—16

Mr Barnett	Mr Harman
Mr Bateman	Mr Hartrey
Mr Bertram	Mr Jamieson
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr May
Mr Carr	Mr Skidmore
Mr Davies	Mr A. R. Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr J. T. Tonkin
Mr Fletcher	Mr Moller

(Teller)

##### Pairs

##### Ayes

Mr O'Connor  
Mr Cowan  
Mr Old  
Mr Sibson  
Mr Watt  
Mr Coyne

##### Noes

Mr H. D. Evans  
Mr T. H. Jones  
Mr Bryce  
Mr T. J. Burke  
Mr Taylor  
Mr McIver

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (GENERAL LOAN FUND)

##### Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [3.12 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this measure is to appropriate from the General Loan Fund, the sums required to finance certain capital expenditure, details of which are given in the Loan Estimates to be distributed at the end of my speech.

Moneys paid into the General Loan Fund consist of new borrowings approved by the Australian Loan Council, repayments to the fund of sundry advances made in previous years and grants from the Commonwealth for general capital purposes.

The amount available for 1975-76 is \$131.3 million comprising a State new borrowing programme of \$80.2 million, a capital grant of \$40.1 million, loan repayments of \$7 million, and an unexpended balance in the General Loan Fund at the 30th June, 1975, of \$4 million.

This total of \$131.3 million compares with actual expenditure from General Loan Fund in 1974-75 of \$97.8 million.

#### Loan Council Programmes

At the Australian Loan Council meeting in June, the Council approved a total State Government borrowing programme for 1975-76 of \$1291 million. Of this total programme, \$861 million is represented by State borrowings and \$430 million, or one-third, by capital grant.

The initial Commonwealth proposal was for a programme some \$31 million lower but following representations by all Premiers on the need for a greater increase to offset greatly increased wages and material costs, the Prime Minister raised the Commonwealth offer to a figure 20 per cent higher than last year's allocation.

Mr Bateman: What a Prime Minister!  
Mr Jamieson: Generous!

Sir CHARLES COURT: Despite argument from the Premiers that a 20 per cent increase would mean a reduction in real terms considering the degree of cost escalation in the building and construction industry, the Commonwealth would not

agree to a further increase in the programme.

Apart from a special permanent addition of \$10 million to the New South Wales allocation in recognition of that State's relatively low *per capita* share of Loan Council programmes, the total allocation was divided between the States in proportion to their established shares.

Western Australia's allocation emerges at \$120.3 million, including a capital grant component of \$40.1 million which, in line with the all-States allocation, is 20 per cent higher than last year.

In addition to determining the annual works programme of the States, the Loan Council approves an aggregate annual borrowing programme for larger State semi-governmental and local authorities.

Larger authorities were previously defined as those borrowing more than \$500 000 in a year. Smaller authorities were those borrowing \$500 000 or less.

At the June, 1975, meeting it was agreed that in view of rising costs some lift in the ceiling for smaller authorities was now necessary and the new limit has been fixed at \$700 000.

This change will be of considerable benefit not only to local authorities throughout the State but also to many of our smaller semi-governmental authorities.

The borrowing programme approved by the Loan Council for semi-governmental bodies and local authorities whose individual loan raisings exceed \$700 000 in 1975-76 amounts to \$38 264 000. The distribution of this borrowing programme between the larger authorities is set out in an attachment to the Estimates.

The total programme for larger authorities of \$38.3 million represents an increase of only \$377 000 on the programme approved for this State last year. The smallness of the increase in Western Australia's case calls for explanation, particularly as the allocations for all other States increased by 20 per cent in line with the lift in the Loan Council general works programme.

Members will be aware that since 1972-73, Western Australia has had the benefit of a supplementary borrowing allocation for larger authorities of \$6 million. This extra allocation was in lieu of a corresponding sum in revenue grants which we had lost following a decision made in 1970-71 to phase out the \$15.5 million additional grant we were receiving at that time as a result of our break from the Grants Commission.

By 1972-73, when the transfer was suspended, the supplementary grant had diminished to \$6.5 million and \$9 million had been added to our semi-governmental borrowing allocation of which \$3 million

was a permanent addition and \$6 million was described as temporary. The position remained unchanged until 1974-75 and came under review when arrangements for the next five years were considered at the June Premier's Conference.

I have already explained to the House the agreement that was finally reached in relation to the future treatment of the residual \$6.5 million revenue grant.

I put it to the Prime Minister that, as the \$6 million temporary addition to our semi-governmental borrowing programme was in lieu of an equivalent sum in revenue grants which had been permanently lost to the State, it should be made a permanent part of our total capital allocation.

However, to my surprise, the Prime Minister was adamant that we were no longer to receive the benefit of the \$6 million supplementary allocation and despite all argument, refused to budge on this issue.

The Commonwealth Government's attitude was the more surprising when it is realised that the amount in question was only an authority for Western Australian authorities to borrow; it was not cash that had to be raised by the Commonwealth.

Admittedly it is one thing to obtain a borrowing allocation; it is another thing to raise the money on the market as the problems we experienced last year demonstrate. However, finding lenders to fill the programme is a challenge we readily accept and I am confident we could have raised the \$6 million on top of the programme now approved which is only marginally greater than that of last year.

Our semi-governmental borrowing allocation in 1974-75, including the \$6 million special addition, amounted to \$37.9 million. This year it is \$38.3 million, an increase of only 1 per cent in a year when costs have risen by more than 20 per cent.

The total capital resources available to us this year under the Loan Council general works and larger semi-governmental authorities programmes amount to \$158.6 million compared to \$138.1 million last year. This is an increase of 14.8 per cent against a lift of 20 per cent or more for all other States and a need for at least that order of increase if we were to have any chance of maintaining the same physical volume of works.

In the knowledge of these facts, it is galling to hear criticism of the Western Australian Government because we have been unable to marshal sufficient capital funds to maintain the same physical works programme and therefore avoid staff retrenchments.

Every possible step has been taken to ensure that all available funds are channelled in support of the works programme this year to offset the Commonwealth Government's action in cutting back the increase in our semi-governmental allocation.

In introducing the Loan Estimates to Parliament last year I indicated that there was a risk of a shortfall in semi-governmental borrowing and that it was considered prudent to hold some loan funds in reserve as a cushion against a possible shortfall in borrowing. At that time, all States were having difficulty in raising funds on a very tight loan market.

The position has improved considerably so far this year and, although we can never be sure that sufficient lenders will be forthcoming to fill the programme, it is not considered necessary to hold loan funds in reserve on this occasion.

The Loan Council also decided at the June, 1975, meeting to continue the practice whereby no overall limit is imposed on borrowings by smaller authorities.

The aggregate loan raisings in 1974-75 of these smaller borrowers was \$25.9 million compared with the estimate for the current year of \$34.7 million.

State Government authorities in this category are expected to raise \$8.2 million in 1975-76 to assist the financing of their works programme. Details are shown in an attachment to the Estimates.

#### **Commonwealth Specific Purpose Payments of a Capital Nature**

These payments by the Federal Government are not subject to Loan Council approval and because they are fully described in the Commonwealth publication *Payments to or for the States and Local Government Authorities* I do not propose to deal with them in great detail.

Certain of these advances are paid to the State for direct transmission to various authorities such as the Main Roads Department, the Rural Reconstruction Authority, the several tertiary education institutions, and independent schools, and for this reason they are not included in the Estimates.

Other payments to the State form part of the funds available to finance the works detailed in the Estimates and these have been listed under appropriate headings. The total of the sums so listed is \$89.8 million for 1975-76, compared with \$82.2 million for last financial year.

Although the estimated total for 1975-76 exceeds actual receipts last financial year some of the individual allocations are considerably lower than had been indicated in earlier discussions with the Commonwealth authorities concerned, and in some cases lower than the amount provided last year.

Grants for education buildings are in this latter category. Receipts last year amounted to \$14.4 million and a total of \$13.9 million is estimated to be available in 1975-76.

Advances for all housing purposes reveal a similar pattern with \$35.6 million

being available in 1975-76 compared with \$38.4 million last year. To make good a promise that funds provided for welfare housing in 1975-76 would be no less than in 1974-75, the Commonwealth Government has taken into account an additional payment of \$2 million made in June, 1975, when assessing our requirements for this financial year.

Commonwealth funds provided under the national sewerage programme to overcome the backlog of metropolitan sewerage works will also decrease in this financial year from \$12.9 million to \$11.9 million. Receipts during 1974-75 included an amount of \$1 million required to complete works commenced before the 1st July, 1974. Consequently the actual allocation for the 1974-75 programme was \$11.9 million which is the same as for this year.

The effect of the Commonwealth Government's decision to provide no increase in the funds for urban sewerage this year is that there will be a sharp reduction in the actual work which can be done in 1975-76 under the national sewerage programme.

Grants allocated in 1975-76 for hospital and health projects amount to \$17.8 million compared with \$7.9 million expended under these Commonwealth programmes in 1974-75. The additional funds available this year will help to meet the expected increase in demand for public hospital beds as a result of the introduction of Medibank.

There are other proposals for the provision of funds by the Commonwealth for programmes that are yet to be finalised.

In cases where the total of funds to be made available to the State is not yet firm and details of the programme are not yet settled, they have not been included in the Estimates.

#### **Internal Funds**

Internal funds of certain State instrumentalities such as depreciation provisions, cash balances and profits are also an important source of finance for capital works.

It is expected that expenditure will be financed in 1975-76 from these sources will total \$62 million compared with \$54.8 million in 1974-75. Details are given in the Estimates.

#### **Other Funds**

Contributions from mining companies and property developers for the provision of Government services and loans raised by local authorities for specific works, also add to funds available for capital works.

Amounts spent last year from these sources totalled \$13.1 million and expenditure this year is expected to total \$16.5 million.

### Works Programme

With the total funds available from the sources I have described, a works programme of \$339.8 million is to be carried out this year, financed as follows—

	million
Proceeds of Commonwealth loans .....	\$80.2
Commonwealth General Purpose Capital Grant .....	\$40.1
Loan repayments .....	\$7
Balance in General Loan Fund at 30th June, 1975 .....	\$4
Borrowings by State Authorities listed in the Estimates .....	\$39.8
Commonwealth specific purpose payments .....	\$89.8
Internal funds .....	\$62
Other funds .....	\$16.9

Last year, a programme of \$286.1 million was carried out with finance from similar sources and so planned expenditure in 1975-76 represents an increase of \$53.7 million which is 18.8 per cent above the outlay in 1974-75.

It may be asked how it is that the Government has been able to mount a capital works programme 18.8 per cent higher in money terms than last year when funds derived from the Loan Council allocations have increased by only 14.8 per cent and Commonwealth funds provided under a number of specific purpose capital programmes have not increased and, in some cases, have been reduced.

I wish to explain this point very clearly because there has been much ill-informed criticism of the Government on the matter of wages staff retrenchments when no blame can possibly be attached to the Government.

I have already mentioned that we have held no loan funds in reserve this year against a possible shortfall in semi-governmental borrowings. There is a degree of risk in this action but by so doing we have released the whole of the Loan Council general works allocation to keep men in work.

More importantly we have cut back on recurrent expenditure to ensure that the Revenue Fund Budget is in balance. Last year, \$9.1 million had to be held out of the capital works programme to cover the revenue fund deficit, that is to meet the shortfall of revenue in our current account. That money was not available for schools, hospitals, or sewerage works.

This year, none of the available capital funds have had to be set aside for deficit funding which means that, by comparison with last year, we have released another \$9.1 million to support the capital works programme.

It is these two steps that have enabled the Government to lift the capital works programme to the extent that it has and to offset the Commonwealth Government's

action in cutting back on funds for schools and sewerage.

What we have not been able to offset is the loss of \$6 million semi-governmental borrowing authority imposed on us at the June Loan Council meeting. It is significant that had that action not been taken, we would have been able to finance a works programme this year almost 21 per cent greater than in 1974-75.

### Expenditure from the General Loan Fund

Of the total finance required for the planned works programme, an amount of \$131.3 million is to be supplied from the General Loan Fund for the purposes listed in the Estimates.

Full details of the programme are set out in the Estimates together with the source of funds to be employed. The amount to be provided from the General Loan Fund and which is subject to appropriation is clearly identified.

As in most cases, specific works to be undertaken are set out in the Estimates, there is no need for me to comment on all items and I shall therefore confine my remarks to some broader aspects of the programme.

### Education

An expanded programme of school buildings is to be undertaken this year. Total expenditure of \$38.5 million is proposed compared with expenditure from all sources in 1974-75 of \$32.3 million.

This lift of 19 per cent in the total programme is notwithstanding a reduced level of grants from the Commonwealth Government for education buildings.

The Commonwealth Government has announced that it is unable in the present financial circumstances to support recommendations of the magnitude put forward by the Schools Commission for expenditure in the triennium beginning in 1976. As a result, there has been a slow-down of Commonwealth financed capital projects in 1976 and a deferment of the beginning of the new triennium until 1977.

In an endeavour to offset the effect of the cutback in Commonwealth funds, provision has been made in the Loan Estimates for the expenditure of \$21 million of State loan funds on school buildings. In addition to this allocation, \$1 million has been provided for pre-primary centres.

The total provision of \$22 million this year compares with actual expenditure of \$17.9 million on school buildings from the General Loan Fund in 1974-75.

The school building programme has been hit hard by a steep rise in building costs which, in the case of schools, appear to be escalating faster than is the general rule in the industry.

The increased cost of building the first stage of a high school is an indication of this worrying trend. In 1974, the cost of stage 1 of Forrestfield High School was \$973 000. In 1975, the lowest tender for the first stage of Gosnells High School was \$1 342 000. This increase of 38 per cent in the space of one year is frightening and raises serious doubts of our ability to build school buildings in the same way as we have done in the past.

A specialist committee, comprising representatives of the Education and Public Works Departments, is currently studying the problem with a view to determining how we can get better value for the funds we spend in school buildings. Substantial changes may be necessary in the type of building provided and consideration may need to be given to establishing a closer working relationship with builders by means of negotiated contracts instead of the present tender system.

Moreover, the very high cost of school buildings today and the huge public investment in education facilities require that we redouble our efforts to obtain greater public use of school facilities.

Work will commence this year on three new high schools at Gosnells, Craigie, and Greenwood and further stages will be added to six existing high schools. Kar-ratha High School is to be extended and air-conditioned.

Six new primary schools are to be built this year of which five will be in the metropolitan area and one at Mandurah.

A second cluster comprising six teaching areas plus a covered assembly area will be added to each of four existing suburban primary schools. At three other suburban primary schools, additions of a third cluster of teaching areas plus a resource centre will be provided.

The existing primary school at Baler, South Hedland, will be extended to cope with the steeply rising school population that is a consequence of the growth of the iron ore export trade through Port Hedland. In this case, the additions will consist of 12 teaching areas, a resource centre, and a covered assembly area.

Additional classrooms will be added at a number of other centres.

Due to the cutback in Commonwealth funds proposed for 1975-76, a number of schools which were scheduled for major additions cannot be provided with permanent new buildings. Consequently pupils will either have to be transported to adjacent schools or accommodated in demountable classrooms.

Because of the increased use expected to be made of temporary classrooms the Education and Public Works Departments are investigating a better quality transportable

classroom that does not suffer by comparison with permanent accommodation. The development of an improved and widely acceptable transportable classroom could do much to increase flexibility of planning and to reduce the overall cost of school buildings.

Pre-primary centres will be established at each of the new primary schools that will open in 1976 and several other pre-primary centres will be added to existing schools.

The existing programme for 14 pre-primary centres financed from the 1974-75 childhood services programme will be continued and an amount of \$965 000 is available for this purpose.

### Hospital and Health Services

Total expenditure of \$34.7 million has been programmed for hospital buildings this year against actual expenditure in 1974-75 of \$26.1 million.

This one-third increase in the hospital building programme permits the commencement of a number of major projects and lifts expenditure on hospitals to a new plateau which will need to be maintained for several years.

With the need for ensuring the most effective utilisation and economic operation of resources much attention has been given to the rationalisation, co-ordination, and development of hospital services.

A detailed review of metropolitan hospital requirements during the next 15 years has been carried out in conjunction with consultants. This review aims to limit the State's plans for hospital development in the metropolitan area to essential facilities and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

As a result of the review, the metropolitan area has been divided into three zones each based on one of the three major metropolitan hospitals. The eastern zone will be supported by Royal Perth Hospital, the northern zone by Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and the southern zone by Fremantle Hospital and, in due course, by the proposed Lakes Hospital.

Development at the Perth Medical Centre is reaching a climax. The diagnostic centre will be completed this financial year whilst earthworks, preparation, and foundation work for the podium and ward block are progressing. Tenders for the completion of this—the major building on the site—will be called shortly. The required expenditure, which will exceed \$40 million, is to be spread over approximately five years with an estimated completion date in 1979-80. The building will contain three floors each with 120 beds, an emergency treatment centre, intensive care centres for cardiac and coronary patients, and other special facilities.

Major works are also to be commenced at the Royal Perth, Fremantle, and King Edward Memorial Hospitals to provide the facilities required for them to fulfil their dual roles of patient care and as teaching hospitals.

The Royal Perth Hospital north block will include accommodation to relieve grossly overcrowded areas in the existing hospital. This work will require total expenditure in the order of \$28 million spread over a period of five years.

Fremantle Hospital's phased development programme is to be greatly accelerated. The new kitchen and cafeteria, and the 60-bed ward block in Attfield Street are due for completion this year.

New works to be commenced in 1975-76 include a new school of nursing and the South Terrace ward block. The latter block will be the major building on the site and will take five years to build at a cost of \$22 million. It will include provision for 162 beds, an outpatient department, laboratories, and a pharmacy.

Tenders will be called shortly for the construction of a new \$14 million addition to the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. Construction will be spread over three years and the completed building will provide 90 beds, neonatal nurseries, and service areas.

At Bridgetown, Busselton, and Northampton new hospitals will be commenced to replace unsatisfactory existing hospitals.

Other works include substantial extensions at the Bentley, Esperance, Kununurra, Port Hedland, and Wagin Hospitals and at the Quo Vadis Hospital at Byford. This last-named project is an important part of the programme recommended by the Alcohol and Drug Authority.

Expenditure of \$6.3 million is proposed on public health buildings. Of this total, an amount of \$1 million is to be provided from the General Loan Fund and a substantial part of the balance consists of grants from the Commonwealth Government for dental health and community health programmes.

Major items in the programme are the School of Dental Therapy at Warwick, dental therapy clinics, and health centres at Geraldton, Karratha, South Hedland, and Mandurah.

Provision has also been made for extensions to the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in Wellington Street.

## Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage

The Metropolitan Water Board will undertake a programme this year involving expenditure of \$49.6 million compared with \$42.2 million in 1974-75.

Of the total funds available, a sum of \$11.9 million is being provided by the Commonwealth under the national sewerage programme. As I explained earlier, the Commonwealth allocation is the same as for last year and represents a reduction of more than 20 per cent in the work that can be undertaken and in the numbers that can be employed from this source.

The work force engaged by the board has to a major degree been geared to the work to be done under the national sewerage programme. The fact that funds provided by the Commonwealth under the agreement did not keep pace with rising costs, posed a serious problem for the board and the Government as indeed it has in other areas.

In other cases, however, it has simply meant that fewer contracts can be let and the resulting decline in employment occurs in the private sector.

The Government has done its best to provide additional funds to the board from State resources at the expense of needs in other areas and it will be noted from the estimates that the General Loan Fund allocation to the board has been lifted from \$12.5 million in 1974-75 to \$20 million this year.

In line with the minimal increase in our semi-governmental borrowing allocation this year, the board will seek to raise a further \$8.5 million by private borrowings against \$8.4 million in 1974-75.

Of the total funds available, the board has allocated \$21.7 million for water supply purposes and this sum includes \$1.8 million for the development of the Wanneroo groundwater scheme to serve the expanding needs of the north-west corridor. A further sum of \$2.7 million is required for water mains associated with this work.

Work on upgrading the supply system from Canning Dam to the Mt. Yokine Reservoir will continue this year. With the completion of the Canning tunnel, it is necessary to expand the capacity of the mains and \$1.8 million has been allocated to extend this work as far as Belmont in the current year.

Sewage treatment works at Beenyup and Westfield are to be converted from extended aeration to the activated sludge process to enable them to provide for the increasing population to be served. In all, \$25.7 million is programmed for expenditure on sewerage works in 1975-76.

A total programme involving expenditure of \$11.6 million on water supply construction and \$4.7 million on sewerage works is planned for country areas this year.

An amount of \$500 000 has been allocated to headworks development for the recently announced water supply scheme for the Albany region.

A start is also to be made on work to provide an improved supply for the town of Mullewa. A pipeline is to be laid from Wicherina for this purpose, and \$580 000 has been provided for expenditure on this work in 1975-76.

Water supply schemes are to be provided for Leeman and Greenhead and a start is to be made on the Leeman sewerage scheme. These installations will provide for the community which will be established to serve the Western Titanium mineral sands deposits and part of the cost will be met by that company.

An allocation of \$620 000 has been made for augmentation of the Mandurah town water supply. This sum will permit the present programme of work to be continued and also allow for a start on construction of a pipeline from South Dandalup Reservoir to Mandurah.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.04 pm.*

### Railways

**SIR CHARLES COURT:** The Railways Commission will undertake a greatly expanded programme of work this year involving expenditure of \$23.7 million compared with \$16.9 million in 1974-75.

The programme allows for the completion of the new railway from Dongara to Eneabba to cater for the export of mineral sands through the Port of Geraldton and also for the completion of the administration complex at East Perth. These two projects require expenditure of \$9.2 million in 1975-76 and represent a major part of the increase to the programme.

Payments for purchase of rolling stock will also rise substantially compared with 1974-75. The range of stock being acquired includes wagons for the transport of alumina from Pinjarra, ilmenite from Eneabba, and woodchips from the new industry at Dimond.

Substantial progress payments are expected to be made for purchase of 11 main line diesel locomotives for the haulage of woodchips, alumina, coal, and mineral sands. Delivery of the first locomotive is scheduled for August, 1976, and the remainder in the following months.

Provision has also been made for upgrading the line between Dimond and Bunbury for woodchips traffic, between Pinjarra and Bunbury for alumina traffic and for rail facilities in the Bunbury inner harbour area.

The bulk haulage available from these new developments is important to the economic operation of the railways and enables the utility to gain increased business of a type which it is well equipped to handle.

### Other Items

Further details of specific works may be obtained from the appropriate Minister when the Estimates are being dealt with

in Committee and I will therefore limit my remaining comments to a few items of general interest.

The State Energy Commission plans to expend \$47.4 million this financial year on continued expansion of generating capacity and in strengthening the transmission and distribution system to serve the more populated areas of the State. Proposed expenditure is less than last year, but it has been necessary to ask the commission to curtail its capital works programme to avoid a call on the General Loan Fund in addition to its semi-governmental borrowing allocation of \$20.1 million.

An amount of \$5.3 million is scheduled for expenditure on construction of the Bunbury inner harbour including completion of dredging and rock removal and on the construction of No. 1 berth. A start is also to be made this year on the construction of No. 2 general cargo berth.

Provision has been made for an augmented programme of harbour deepening at Geraldton and for preliminary work associated with the No. 5 berth.

A start will be made this year on stage 1 of the new Art Gallery. The work this year is to be financed from private borrowings by the board as authorised by a recent amendment to the Art Gallery Act, and includes fees for the new building and the cost of renovations and alterations to the old CIB building in James Street to accommodate the administrative staff of the gallery.

The need for new law court accommodation is becoming urgent and the Government has decided that a start must be made on a new law courts building in Irwin Street. Funds have been provided for design work to be undertaken this year.

The General Loan Fund allocation to the Government Employees' Housing Authority is to be increased from \$500 000 in 1974-75 to \$3 million in the current year. The Government is concerned at the long waiting list for housing in country areas for teachers, police, traffic patrol officers and other Government employees and the increased allocation is necessary to provide for a greatly increased construction programme.

A detailed study has been made of the needs of the fishing industry for improved port and service facilities and better navigational aids in many locations on our long coastline. As a result a start will be made this year on an extensive programme of work including—

continuation of the second stage of construction of Fremantle fishing boat harbour pens,

investigations and model studies for a small boat harbour at Port Denison,

construction of boat pens at Emu Point and reconstruction of a service jetty,  
 construction of a small jetty at Esperance,  
 provision of a service jetty and launching ramp within the Carnarvon Boat Harbour,  
 ground investigations for a new boat harbour at Albany,  
 construction of a fishermen's service jetty at Kalbarri, and  
 provision of navigational aids at Exmouth.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Department's patrol vessel *Dampier* will be replaced by a modern fibreglass patrol boat. The existing vessel is no longer economical or fast enough to be effective in competition with the more sophisticated craft making up the fishing fleet.

Further purchases of land will be made this year in the vicinity of Benger Swamp to preserve the breeding place of endangered water fowl species.

Erosion of pastoral leases in the Kimberley and Gascoyne regions is causing concern not the least to pastoralists and funds have been provided to the Rural and Industries Bank to enable long-term, low-interest loans to be made to pastoralists for fencing and rehabilitating eroded areas. Further funds will be made available as required.

### Conclusion

That concludes my survey of the capital works budget for 1975-76. I believe it is a carefully balanced programme which provides for a wide range of community needs.

There are of course deficiencies in the programme and a number of desirable works had to be excluded for lack of funds. I have already explained the nature of the financial problem which was not of our making and the steps we have taken to maintain the maximum degree of employment, given the resources available to the Government.

However, here as elsewhere, the real enemy is inflation which constantly erodes the quantum of the work that can be done and the numbers that can be employed from the funds available. Unless inflation of wages and material costs is checked, we face the prospect of a progressively diminishing programme of physical work implemented each year.

I now turn to the main purpose of the Bill which, in addition to appropriating moneys from the General Loan Fund for the services of the year ending the 30th June, 1976, provides for the grant of supply to complete requirements for this financial year.

Supply of \$40 million has already been granted under the Supply Act, 1975, and

further supply of \$91.259 million has been allowed for in the Bill now under consideration.

This total of \$131.259 million is to be appropriated for the purposes and services expressed in a schedule to the Bill.

As well as authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the measure seeks ratification of amounts spent during 1974-75 in excess of the Estimates for that year. Details of these excesses are also given in a schedule to the Bill.

Before closing I would like to record a tribute to a man who contributed a great deal to the development of this State.

Those of us who knew him well were saddened at the recent death of Sir Russell Dumas, one-time Director of Works and subsequent adviser to the previous coalition Government on industrial development projects.

From the time of Sir Russell's appointment as Director of Works in 1941 he presided over a period of tremendous growth and activity in State engineering works.

He was intimately associated with such projects as the original survey of the Ord River valley, the concept and design of the comprehensive water supply scheme, the establishment at Kwinana of the BP oil refinery and many other works of major significance in the development of the State.

As an engineer and engineering administrator Sir Russell had few peers.

Sir Russell Dumas was a man of vision, keen intellect and kindness whose place in the history of Western Australia is assured.

Those members who have dealt with Sir Russell either officially or unofficially will know the type of man he was. He was one of the few people who seem to be equally at home in Government service and in private enterprise. He was a man of tremendous determination—one could say dogged determination—in pursuing a worthy project to a successful conclusion. He was not a person who suffered fools gladly, but he was not easily frustrated or discouraged and those of us who worked with him are, I think, the richer as a result of the tremendous example he set.

I also had occasion to realise he was one of the greatest mathematicians I have ever struck. I do not know if the Leader of the Opposition has experienced this, but Sir Russell used to carry around a stub of a pencil in his pocket and to the great annoyance of all he would make calculations on the back of an envelope; and he would beat calculators both in speed and accuracy.

He was a great man.

I want to say—because I believe it is appropriate on the Loan Estimates as his work for the Governments of this State was most evident in respect of engineering works involving loan funds—that the Government has decided that the building at 2 Havelock Street, West Perth, which up till now has not had an official name, and in keeping with the policy of the Government to try to have official and proper names for such buildings, will henceforth be known as Dumas House. I think it is an appropriate tribute to a really great man.

I commend the Bill to members and, in so doing, table the Estimates for 1975-76.

*The Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending June, 1976, were tabled (see paper No. 456).*

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr J. T. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

#### *Message: Appropriations*

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

### **APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)**

#### *Second Reading: Budget Debate*

Debate resumed from the 2nd October.

**MR J. T. TONKIN** (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [4.16 p.m.]: Before addressing myself to the content of the Revenue Estimates and their general import, there are two matters which I think call for perhaps more than passing reference.

I consider that yesterday the member for Karrinyup prostituted the Standing Orders for the purpose of raising, in a grievance debate, a matter which was not intended to be raised in that way when the relevant Standing Orders were first agreed to. I think you will recall, Mr Speaker, that the purpose of these particular Standing Orders, which are comparatively new, was to overcome the difficulty private members have from time to time in raising matters of importance that affect their electors and obtaining, in the House, an early reply.

The relevant Standing Orders were never intended to mean that the reply should come from anybody else but a member of the Government and it was implicit, in the grievance being raised, that they were matters upon which the Government would want to comment; otherwise there is no point in raising them.

However, the member for Karrinyup saw fit to raise a question which I consider should not have been raised in the way it was, as it would have been more appropriately raised on the Estimates, because

the matter with which he dealt had reference to the Estimates. What he said related to an article published in the *Sunday Independent* of last Sunday.

The heading of that article was, "Budget blow-up". Subsequently, when the Premier was replying to the member for Karrinyup I interjected that the Premier should make sure I had actually said what was reported in the newspaper. To be fair to the newspaper and to myself I propose, briefly, to explain just what did happen. I quote from this article as follows—

An amount of \$27.7 million voted to the Premier and Treasurer in last year's State Budget—and not used—will be highlighted by the State Opposition.

That is perfectly true, because I propose to highlight it, not by way of protest, which the member for Karrinyup assumed quite wrongly, but for reasons which will become clear as I deal with them a little later. That statement in the paper is quite true. The next one reads—

Opposition Leader, Mr Tonkin, said last night that the State Government would have had a huge deficit if the money had been used for the purpose stated.

In that statement the newspaper is slightly in error, but it was only a question of the omission of a couple of words which made all the difference. This sort of thing happens and it was not worth my while to write to the newspaper to point this out.

What I did say, and meant—and what I shall show as I proceed—was that if the circumstances had been such that the Government had been obliged to use this large sum of \$27.7 million to meet excesses in wages and salaries—if the wages and salaries had been in excess to that extent—the Government would have a very substantial deficit—and it certainly would have a substantial deficit, because in addition to making this special provision there was provision in the departmental Estimates already to meet any increase in wages and salaries.

Mr Clarko: That is not correct.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is correct, and I will show the honourable member that it is correct very shortly.

Mr Clarko: In fact, a sum of \$42 million was spent on total increases.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: When the honourable member seeks to deal with a matter he should be sure he knows what he is talking about.

Mr Clarko: Some increases are already in the departmental Estimates.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Fortunately I have unlimited time and I will be able, quite clearly, to deal with the points raised by

the honourable member. That is the only exception I take to this article in the *Sunday Independent*; namely, that it conveyed an impression—which the member for Karrinyup accepted—which was not what I meant at all. What I meant was that in regard to this amount of \$27.7 million, specially put in the Budget for the purpose of meeting an excess in wages and salaries, had it been necessary—and I emphasise that word—within the total finance available to the Government for it to have used \$27.7 million, it would have had a very substantial deficit, but it was not known—

Mr Clarko: It was. It spent \$42 million instead of \$27.7 million.

Sir Charles Court: I do not like to interrupt, but I think it is only fair to say that we spent \$11 million in addition to that amount of \$27.7 million.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I will explain what the real situation is and I will not twiddle with the figures, either. This article goes on to say—

Official documents show that Sir Charles Court, as Treasurer, voted \$27.7 million as provision to offset excess expenditure by departments on salary and wage increases.

That is true; I did say that. The next part reads—

The Budget papers show that there was no expenditure in this area and that no allocation has been made in this section in the 1975-76 estimates.

What I was conveying there was that none of that \$27.7 million, which had been specially set aside, was used, because the Budget papers show nil expenditure for that item and the Premier is responsible for bringing that before Parliament.

Mr Clarko: And you did it twice yourself.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The next part of this article which appeared in last Sunday's issue of the *Sunday Independent* reads as follows—

Mr Tonkin said the amount listed and other items made a "phony" of the State Budget.

Before I finish speaking I think I will prove that. Continuing—

He said he would also highlight Sir Charles' summary to the Budget speech.

I propose to do that. Continuing—

Sir Charles said: "To sum up, we are budgeting to expend \$980 673 000 in 1975-76 against expected revenue of the same amount. The estimates therefore provide for a balanced Budget.

"However, as I pointed out on more than one occasion in the course of this speech, there are many uncertain ele-

ments involving sums of considerable magnitude and the final figures for the year could well differ significantly from the estimates."

That was the statement made by Sir Charles. Continuing—

Mr Tonkin also pointed to the estimated big amount of money from the Commonwealth to be received in 1975-76.

He said the figure was more than 50 per cent of the State's total revenue.

There is an error there. What I said was that it was 49.8 per cent. I ask you, Mr Speaker, was that a matter on which a member of the Government side should get up to speak during a grievance debate? Obviously, he did not understand the situation.

Mr Clarko: You totally misled the Western Australian population and you are doing it again, because you are not right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I take strong exception to some words the member for Karrinyup used in regard to myself when he said that important statements which I have just read—and they were only statements to which he was referring—were totally distorted and inaccurate.

I challenge the member for Karrinyup to show in one single instance where any one of the statements in that article which was published in the *Sunday Independent* was distorted or inaccurate.

Mr Clarko: It is a total distortion to say that \$27 million was not spent, because it was.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Let the honourable member open up the Budget papers and have a look.

Mr Clarko: I have.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: And what do they show?

Mr Clarko: A nil amount.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: So it is a nil amount?

Mr Clarko: That is a normal move and it was done twice when you were Treasurer.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Obviously the member for Karrinyup does not understand the situation.

Sir Charles Court: Yes he does, because you used the same method yourself.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes, but this has nothing to do with that, and I will prove it before I sit down.

Sir Charles Court: You used the same accounting method for the same reasons.

Mr McIver: I do not think we will accept what the member for Karrinyup has said on this situation.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Premier indicated that he proposes, in connection with these amounts, to follow a course different from that which was taken previously. He proposes to include the amounts in the separate departmental estimates rather than provide the global amount set last year, as I did when we were in Government. I intend to quote the Premier's exact words so that I do not mislead anybody. Firstly, to show the inconsistency of the Premier, I wish to state that he is proposing to provide a global amount in these estimates for the purpose of major items of equipment, the total sum of which he does not at present know, and which he is unable to allocate to the departments.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is no different from increases in wages which he cannot properly anticipate. The amount he might have to allocate to the Public Works Department, the Public Health Department, or any other department for new equipment or the replacement of existing equipment, cannot be properly calculated, and the situation with regard to increases in wages and salaries is no different from the position in regard to equipment.

Why provide a global amount to meet the costs in the various departments instead of charging them against the departments for equipment, and then change the method so far as wages and salaries are concerned? With regard to this provision for equipment, the Treasurer had this to say on page 3036 of *Hansard*—

For this reason we have refrained in most cases from making provision in departmental votes and it is proposed to provide a global sum to be held in a trust account from which expenditure will be incurred following evaluation and approval.

On page 3046 we find the following regarding the changed policy in connection with wages and salaries—

A further step has been taken to facilitate alignment of departments' expenditure with the votes approved by Parliament. Instead of the overall provision for new staff which has appeared previously in the Miscellaneous Service Division, a specific financial allocation has been made to each department after careful scrutiny of its requirements.

In every case the amount allowed is considerably less than the request submitted.

What the Treasurer should have referred to in that last sentence was the "estimated" amount, because he does not know at this stage how much provision, without a global allocation, ought to be made in the various departments. It is a reasonable assumption that he has allowed more than will be absolutely necessary. I

say it is a reasonable assumption because I am going on the experience of the last two years in connection with increases in wages and salaries.

Sir Charles Court: When we never allowed enough in either your year or our year.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: As to the desirability of changing the practice of allowing a global amount as a miscellaneous item and charging it against the respective department, let us see what the Auditor-General had to say in his report last year. Unfortunately, this year's report is delayed for some reason not yet given to the House. I would like to know the reason.

Sir Charles Court: He told me yesterday that it was entirely due to printing and he was hopeful of getting it, if not today, then on the first sitting day of next week.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is unfortunate it is not available for perusal by the Opposition before it is called upon to deal with the Estimates. I had a check made of what has been usual in this connection and I found that in 1972 the Auditor-General's report was tabled on the 3rd October, and the Estimates were introduced on the 3rd October—the same day. In 1973, the Auditor-General's report was tabled on the 3rd October and the Appropriation Bill was introduced the following day. In 1974—that was the first year this Government was in office—the Budget was introduced on the 3rd October, but the Auditor-General's report did not arrive until the 22nd October.

Mr May: Significant.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Now we have a repetition of that situation.

I accept the Treasurer's explanation that there were difficulties with printing, but do not let us forget that he was the one who would put things right.

Sir Charles Court: You must realise that the Auditor-General's report is something over which the Government has no control at all. He does not report to Parliament at all.

Mr May: To whom does he report?

Sir Charles Court: To the Speaker, not me.

Mr Jamieson: It should have priority in printing.

Several members interjected.

Sir Charles Court: You people know so little.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: On the question of whether it is desirable to provide a global amount as we did, and as this Government did last year, to meet increases in wages and salaries which can only be anticipated, or whether it is preferable to increase the allocation in the departmental votes and not provide a global amount, let us read what the Auditor-General

thinks. I quote the following from page 5 of his report for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1974—

A factor that contributes to excesses on Consolidated Revenue Fund Votes, is the practice of charging the cost of new staff and salary and wage increases to the departmental estimates—

That is precisely what the Government has now decided to do. The report continues—

—instead of charging these costs to the specific votes provided in "Miscellaneous Services". It may be contended that excess expenditure on the Consolidated Revenue Fund is overstated by \$17 254 000.

Obviously the Auditor-General believes that to do it the way this Government has now decided to do it is not the better way at all and could lead to contention with regard to excess expenditure on the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Sir Charles Court: He has put up a case to do it the way we are doing it now.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is not the way we are doing it now.

Sir Charles Court: That is the way we have switched to now. I dealt with that in my speech.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Surely the Premier will not be as stupid as all that, or appear to be—

Sir Charles Court: You put your own interpretation on it.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Just listen to the Auditor-General's comments—

Sir Charles Court: I have read them.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I quote—

A factor that contributes to excesses on Consolidated Revenue Fund Votes, is the practice of charging the cost of new staff and salary and wage increases to the departmental estimates—

Is that not what the Treasurer proposes?

Sir Charles Court: You read the rest of his comment.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Is not that what is proposed?

Sir Charles Court: You read the total statement.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: What about answering the question?

Sir Charles Court: Read the total statement he has made. It is what we are doing now.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Auditor-General continues—

—instead of charging these costs to the specific votes provided in "Miscellaneous Services".

That is what the Government did last year. It charged the vote to miscellaneous services—a specific amount.

Sir Charles Court: We put a global sum in.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Government has changed the system this year. If the Treasurer wants to argue that the Government has not, I give up.

Sir Charles Court: You might as well give up.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Of course it is well known that the Premier will say one thing and mean another.

Sir Charles Court: No, not at all.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: He follows the philosophy of, "What does it matter what I said yesterday?"

Sir Charles Court: I am responsible in what I say. I know a bit about it.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is the situation in clear English. The Government is departing from the practice of charging a global amount in the miscellaneous items—

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: —as it did last year—

Sir Charles Court: And you did before.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: —to charging the amounts to the specific departments.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Premier denies that he has done that.

Sir Charles Court: No I am not. I am saying we have done it on purpose and for a good reason.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I do not care whether or not it is on purpose. The Premier now admits he has done it and he proves the argument I have been advancing that the Auditor-General—

Sir Charles Court: It is in my speech.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: —does not think it is the thing to do.

Sir Charles Court: He prefers what we are doing.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Auditor-General points out that by so doing the Government raises the contention that the Consolidated Revenue Fund expenditure could be overestimated and overstated.

Sir Charles Court: That is the reason we are changing it.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is as much as I want to say about the matter raised by the member for Karrinyup.

I now come to another item, and I was very pleased to hear the Premier give what I think was justifiable praise to the previous Under-Treasurer (Mr Ken Townsing) with whom I had the pleasure of working for three years. He is a very

dedicated officer who never failed to use as much of his leisure time as was necessary in the Government's interests without expecting any payment of overtime for it. So, I go along with what the Premier said, and I give it full emphasis. However, I want to remind the House that the Premier did not always have that opinion about Mr Ken Townsing.

Sir Charles Court: Yes he did.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Oh no, he did not.

Mr Mensaros: Your deputy did not have yesterday.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: What is the Minister mumbling about?

Mr Mensaros: Your deputy did not have that opinion of him yesterday. You read the interjections.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am speaking as I find things. My deputy can look after himself. He is quite capable of doing that, too.

Mr May: It was not yesterday, either.

Sir Charles Court: Last week.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am speaking as I find things, and what I am going to prove—and I say "prove"—is that the Premier did not always have that opinion because he has spoken very disparagingly about the Under-Treasurer and other Treasury officers.

Sir Charles Court: Never.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is on record, and I have it here. It caused me to have a discussion with the said Under-Treasurer after the remarks were made; and he said to me, "Of course, I cannot come out and defend myself. I have just got to take it." However, I came out and defended him against the aspersions cast against him and other Treasury officers because for political purposes it suited the Premier to cast them.

Sir Charles Court: We criticised the Government for putting the Treasury officers in a position they should never have been put in.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: We will see what the Premier said.

Sir Charles Court: Right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is in reference to a number of items in the Liberal Party policy which, at the request of departmental officers, were referred to the Treasury. I did not take the initiative in all cases. I did in some, because *The West Australian* newspaper wanted a costing of my estimates, and so I thought it was fair to obtain a costing of the then Opposition's estimates, too. I repeat that not in all cases did the initiative come from me. Departmental officers were so concerned at the extravagance of some of the Liberal Party's promises that they sought an opportunity to discuss them with Treasury and

as a result of the discussions, figures were submitted to me and, without alteration, they were quoted by me. We will see what the result was.

One statement made by the then Leader of the Opposition, and now the Premier, was that the Treasury cost estimates had exaggerated the real capital costs by \$250 million. Then he said—

We are seriously concerned at the way professional Treasury officers have been degraded.

In *The West Australian* of the 25th March, 1974, the present Premier was reported as having said this—

We are seriously concerned at the way professional Treasury officers have been degraded by association with the Labor Party's exaggerated estimates to make them seem credible.

They were not the Labor Party's estimates at all; they were the Treasury's estimates. The inference here is that the Treasury officers allowed themselves to be used by the Labor Party for the purpose of putting out false calculations in connection with the promises which had been made.

Because the Treasury officers were so upset about this, I made a couple of statements. One which appeared on the 23rd March, 1974, reads in part—

The Premier, Mr Tonkin, said today it was indecent of Sir Charles Court to use the terms "suspect" and "highly dangerous" in describing the State Treasury assessment of the cost of the Liberal Party's election undertakings. "The men who made the assessment are top level Treasury officials of unimpeachable honesty," Mr Tonkin said. "They have advised my Government throughout the past three years. They advised Sir David Brand throughout his term of Government, and if there should be a change of Government at the coming election they would advise Sir Charles Court himself, as Premier. He would then be forced either to dismiss them or to accept the advice of men whom he has publicly branded as capable of suspect and highly dangerous conduct."

This further statement was issued three days later—

The Premier, Mr Tonkin, said today Sir Charles Court's attack on the Under-Treasurer, Mr Townsing, was unwarranted and grossly unfair. Mr Townsing and other Treasury officials were criticised simply because their assessment of the cost of the Liberal Party election undertakings was unfavourable to Sir Charles Court himself.

"The Opposition leader has stated publicly that he is alarmed that I permitted Treasury officials to become intimately involved in the election campaign," Mr Tonkin said. "The assessment of Liberal Party costs was made

to comply with *The West Australian's* suggestion that it should be done. If I had rejected that suggestion the Opposition would have pillared me forever for having dodged the issue."

Mr Tonkin said that in employing the Treasury to assess the election undertaking costs he had done no more than Sir David Brand had done before the previous election. In a Press statement of February 15, 1971, the then Premier had said his election promises had been assessed by the departments concerned and checked by the Treasury. This made nonsense of Sir Charles Court's claim on the Leslie Anderson programme on March 25 that the Liberals had always made a point of keeping Treasury people in the background.

"If any parading of Treasury officials has been done in this matter it has been done by Sir Charles Court himself in his attempt to discredit the Treasury's assessment of his election undertakings," Mr Tonkin said.

It is only fair and reasonable that I should remind the House that what the Premier quite rightly said about the Under-Treasurer when he introduced his Estimates was very different from what he had said during the election campaign in 1974.

Sir Charles Court: I criticised the position in which you had placed those Treasury officers.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Premier implied that they had lent themselves to a matter of deception.

Sir Charles Court: No.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes he did.

Sir Charles Court: I criticised the Government for involving the officers in a political campaign, which was very bad.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Was it?

Mr May: It has ever been thus.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Government of which the Premier was a member did the same thing.

Mr Jamieson: You even got your policy printed with Government funds while you were there.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is all very well to try to hedge now but the Treasury officers themselves were very upset about the situation at the time. They discussed it with me and I said how unfair it was that they could not come out and defend themselves. It needs to be kept in mind in connection with this matter that when it becomes necessary to have figures checked, especially promises which have been made by a Government or an Opposition, the most qualified people to do it are the Treasury officers who would be called upon to administer the policies one way or the other.

Should a change of Government take place, they would be required to administer the policies outlined by the Opposition. So who better to assess the costs involved than Treasury officers? And should they be blackguarded, in the way they were by the Premier, for doing it? I simply repeat that what the Premier said a few days ago was an entirely different opinion—although I agreed with it—from the opinion he expressed about those officers during the election campaign.

This Budget is just too good to be true. It is a balanced Budget. I want to know firstly why in this difficult period it becomes necessary for the Government to balance its Budget. It is most unusual. Was the Premier going to say something?

Sir Charles Court: I did not want to interrupt. I think you know my views about using loan funds for deficits. I expressed them in Opposition and I was unhappy last year. I said I did not want to do it again.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I say again it is most unusual for Governments, especially Governments in this State, to come along with balanced Budgets.

Mr Rushton: Sir David Brand did.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: How often?

Mr Rushton: I cannot add it up, but he did.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I will tell the Minister how often: once, the year before the election. And did he balance his Budget? No. It was a cooked-up balance for electioneering purposes, as I rather suspect this one is.

Mr Rushton: He was very close to it a number of times.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I always look for a reason when I am trying to calculate what the Premier is up to.

Sir Charles Court: I gathered that.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is my business to do so.

Sir Charles Court: I agree.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I say the Premier is deliberately, and at the expense of putting men out of work, trying to build up a situation of surplus so that when he brings down his Budget next year he will be able to hand out largesse in all directions in order to improve the climate for the election. Time will tell whether my judgment on that is right.

Sir Charles Court: Have I not done the reverse by squeezing every dollar of loan funds into use this year?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am not merely taking notice of the figures the Premier introduces in the way he introduces them.

Sir Charles Court: So long as you know Gough is going to give us more money.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am dealing with reasonable assumptions in connection with budgetary allocations. The Minister for Local Government was of the opinion that Sir David Brand had introduced a number of balanced Budgets. I have gone back only 10 years—I thought that was reasonable—to see what has been the practice in this State.

Sir David Brand came to office in 1959 and he was in office until 1971; so in 1966 he was in office. In his Budget for the year 1966 estimated total revenue was \$100.191 million and estimated expenditure was \$101.814 million; so he budgeted for a deficit of \$823 000, and it must be remembered this was during the period which the present Premier is pleased to refer to so often as a period of boom. So the Premier of the day budgeted for a deficit even in a period of boom when he was not worried about any unemployment problems.

I want to emphasise these figures to show how expenditure has grown. In 1966 the total estimated revenue was \$100 million; this year it is nearly \$1 000 million. What a tremendous growth in revenue, and correspondingly in expenditure, in a period of 10 years—from \$100 million to almost \$1 000 million. It makes one wonder whether the growth in revenue and expenditure is soundly based.

I now come to 1967, when the estimated total revenue more than doubled. It rose to \$222.436 million but the estimated expenditure was \$223.054 million, or an estimated deficit of \$618 000. In 1968 estimated revenue was \$244.176 million, estimated expenditure was \$244.9 million, and the estimated deficit was \$724 000. We now come to 1969, when estimated total revenue was \$272.216 million and estimated expenditure was \$272.216 million, indicating a balanced Budget. In 1970 estimated total revenue was \$310.733 million, estimated expenditure was \$313.143 million, and the Premier budgeted for a deficit of \$2.410 million.

Of course, 1971 was an election year, so what do we get in that Budget? It was a balanced Budget. The estimated total revenue was \$359.886 million, and the estimated expenditure was \$359.886 million. Now I am sure, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Crane), you will be interested to know what the actual result was. Well, it was not a balanced Budget because the State finished up with an actual deficit of \$4 368 120.

In 1972 the estimated total revenue was \$424.402 million, the estimated expenditure was \$427.927 million, with an estimated Budget deficit of \$3.525 million. The actual deficit was only \$890 971.

In the year 1973 the total estimated revenue was \$469.444 million and the estimated expenditure was \$474.521 million. We budgeted for a deficit of \$5.077 million and the actual deficit was \$3 489 510.

In 1974 the present Government came into office, and slightly more than half the financial year had already passed. The total estimated revenue in my Budget was \$546.427 million, the estimated expenditure was \$553.375 million, giving an estimated deficit of \$6.948 million. The actual deficit was \$5.731 million.

The total estimated revenue in 1975 was \$716.937 million. The estimated expenditure was \$725.683 million, giving an estimated deficit of \$8.746 million. That is the last year in which the actual deficit was greater than the estimated deficit, and it was \$9 133 098. Now, in the face of that, and having regard for the complaints that have been made about the cutback in funds from the Australian Government, the State Government comes here this year and budgets for a balanced Budget. Last year it budgeted for an estimated deficit of \$8.746 million, and it finished up with a deficit of \$9 133 098, but it comes here this time and brings down a balanced Budget. I say it is phony, and I believe before the year is out it will become perfectly obvious that it is phony.

Mr Jamieson: Then the Premier will blame the "Feds".

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Now what makes it all the more suspect is the fact that only three months ago the Premier forecast that Western Australia faced a deficit of \$80 million.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr Davies: That was on his way to the Loan Council, was it not?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes, just three months ago. I ask members to listen to the Premier's justification for that statement, and I quote from the *Daily News* of the 10th June this year. The article is headed, "Big Budget Deficit Ahead". It commences—

WA faced an \$80 million Budget deficit next year, the Premier, Sir Charles Court, said today.

The Federal Government must change the formula for annual State grants if the deficit was to be avoided.

Well, the Federal Government has not changed the formula, but apparently the deficit is being avoided. The article continues—

Sir Charles was releasing a 57-page document reviewing the revenue arrangements between the State and Federal Government.

The document is a statement by all Premiers putting a joint case to the Federal Government.

They hope the document will pave the way for a new financial deal at the Premiers' Conference in Canberra on June 19 and 20.

The Premier said that unless WA got a "fairer share" of the "inflated Federal tax revenues," taxes and charges would increase sharply.

He said formula improvements in 1970 had failed to meet the needs of States.

Inflation had revealed the underlying weakness of the formula.

It had failed to keep pace with enormous increases in wage bills.

"All States are faced with huge deficits next year and there is no hope of the gap being closed from the expected lift in the States' own meagre revenue resources," said Sir Charles.

But the gap has been closed. We have a balanced Budget.

Mr Davies: I am sure it was a wrong statement by the Premier, but he forgot to correct it.

Sir Charles Court: It was a document issued by all the Premiers.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: What makes it all the more remarkable is that up to the present time the indications are that Western Australia is the only State to bring in a balanced Budget.

Sir Charles Court: What did South Australia come down with?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I do not think the South Australian Budget has been introduced yet.

Sir Charles Court: Its Premier boasted he would have a balanced Budget.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Well, he may have done that, but I do not think it has been brought down yet.

Sir Charles Court: I thought he brought it down earlier, and gave the credit for its being balanced to the railways and Medibank.

Mr B. T. Burke: I am interested to know where this \$80 million deficit has gone since June.

Mr Jamieson: It has disappeared.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am trying to show that this is a phony Budget. Surely if we faced an \$80 million deficit three months ago, with no hope of the gap being closed from our meagre revenue resources, this is a phony Budget.

Mr Rushton: You should know because it is a sequence we went through with you.

Sir Charles Court: I am certain South Australia has brought down its Budget because there was a big argument about the debate on the Budget being gagged.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I will tell the Premier how he has closed the gap. He keeps on ranting and raving about the Federal Government, and blaming it because it

will not give him more money. The Australian Government is facing a very heavy and growing deficit but this has not stopped the State asking for more money so that it will not have to spend money of its own.

Let us just look at what has been happening with regard to Federal funds, and this is a very interesting picture. In 1973-74 there was this analysis of the revenue—

	Estimated	Actual
Governmental Revenue	\$237 046 000	\$248 076 843
Public Utilities	\$84 913 000	\$84 290 948

The Commonwealth total assistance was made up of general financial grants which would be untied, tied grants, and a few minor contributions with regard to interest charges and the like. The total estimated amount in 1973-74 was \$546.427 million, and the actual revenue to the State was \$567 683 368. The amount received from the Commonwealth—\$234 315 577—was 41 per cent of the total revenue of the State.

Now let us look at the figures for 1974-75 as follows—

	Estimated	Actual
Governmental Revenue	\$303 744 000	\$310 475 770
Public Utilities	\$114 000 000	\$108 921 222
Commonwealth Assistance	\$299 193 000	\$314 842 949

That is 42.8 per cent on the total revenue to the State.

We now come to this year, the year about which the Premier complains of insufficient assistance from the Australian Government. Of course the figures are only estimates because we do not know the actual result yet. The estimates are—

	Estimated
Governmental Revenue	\$357 583 000
Public Utilities	\$134 613 000
Commonwealth Assistance	\$488 477 000

Therefore 49.8 per cent of the total revenue, or just a fraction less than half the total revenue available to the State will come from the Australian Government.

Mr Jamieson: The good old Federals!

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is worth while making an analysis of some of these figures. Earlier I referred to the practice which has now been put aside of providing a global amount under a miscellaneous item for anticipated increases in wages and salaries. In 1973-74, my Government made a provision in that way by estimating an amount of \$15.570 million. Actually, we had to call on only \$713 000 of it.

As I have said already, the 1974-75 estimate was \$27.7 million, and the actual expenditure from this vote was nil. Now if we look at the general revenue grants from the Commonwealth—and this money is available to the State to do with as it likes;

it can use it anywhere at all—we find that in 1973-74 the total amount of such grants was \$230 611 645 which was 40.6 per cent of the total State revenue.

In 1974-75, this amount of general revenue grants from the Commonwealth had grown to \$293 377 631, which represented 39.9 per cent of the total State revenue. The thing to remember is that although the proportion of total revenue was down slightly, it represented an increase over the previous year of 27.2 per cent, which more than took care of the extra cost caused by inflation.

The Treasurer estimates that in 1975-76 he will receive from the Commonwealth in general revenue grants an amount of \$376 547 000, which represents 38.4 per cent of the total State revenue, and an increase over the previous year's grants from the Australian Government of 28.4 per cent. I repeat: That will more than take care of the increased costs due to inflation.

Sir Charles Court: What about the growth and betterment factors which are inbuilt into the formula?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: On those figures, and with that mass of help from the Commonwealth, I say very deliberately that there is no justification for the Premier insisting upon a balanced Budget. It would be far better government if he had been prepared to run into a deficit, as has been done year after year, in good times and bad, for the purpose of keeping the people employed.

Sir Charles Court: I can understand the argument you are putting forward, but can you tell me where we finance the deficit?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: To start with I do not think the Premier will have a deficit.

Sir Charles Court: That is not responsible.

Mr Jamieson: The growth factor is based on income as well.

Sir Charles Court: That is not responsible; it is not up to your usual form. How are we going to finance the deficit?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I think the revenue figure will be substantially above the estimated amount.

Sir Charles Court: I hope it is, although I do not think it will be.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: In addition, I believe expenditure will be less than the estimate. I repeat that the Premier is trying to provide a nestegg for next year so that he can bring down a Budget in which he will be able to hand out largesse in all directions.

Sir Charles Court: It is a lovely thought; you encourage me greatly.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Time will tell. But there was a time when the Premier felt

that providing for the unemployed was an early consideration of any Government.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: In 1971 the Premier had this to say—

It is the responsibility of a Government to provide opportunities for employment for the work force. We believe in approaching this problem on a constructive basis to generate confidence and bring about a stable economy.

Mr Rushton: That is the most effective way.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is a well-known saying that example is better than precept and it would be well for the Minister for Local Government to take it to heart. The Premier continued—

If we are given the opportunity to perform, we will solve the problem—

The Premier elaborated as follows—

—within six months of getting back into office—

Within six months, mind you! But this Government has been in office for three times that period. The Premier continued—

—and sorting out some of the mess which has been created. We would love to have the responsibility to show what can be done by a Government with the right philosophy.

Apparently the Government has lost that philosophy, because since those remarks were made the then Opposition has become the Government.

Sir Charles Court: We have not done badly compared with the other States.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Where is the improvement the Premier promised would occur?

Mr Thompson: Just imagine what the unemployment figure would be if we had not been in Government.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The honourable member is not allowed to draw on his imagination; he must deal with facts in a Budget debate.

Sir Charles Court: You are talking about August, 1971, when we had a friendly, private enterprise Government in power in Canberra.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The next statement is a beauty! The then Leader of the Opposition, and now Premier, said—

I would be prepared to stake my reputation on success.

Sir Charles Court: You are talking of August, 1971.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The unemployment situation was going to be resolved within six months! Mr Speaker, I would suggest

to you that in the light of his performance, the Premier has no reputation left.

Sir Charles Court: You are talking about August, 1971, when we had a friendly Federal Government and the right attitudes and policies being adopted in Canberra.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Did we? Did we get anything like the amount of money the Premier is now receiving?

Sir Charles Court: You had complete freedom to get on with the development of the State.

Mr Jamieson: Oh yes? Anything that was given was subject to us cutting down on expenditure in other areas.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Complete freedom! How much money was provided for us to get on with the sewerage backlog?

Sir Charles Court: That is not the only form of development.

Mr Taylor: It helps create employment.

Mr Young: Did you not come back and say that you were happy with the amount of \$5.4 million?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes, I was comparatively happy.

Mr Young: Under a Labor Government, no Premier has ever said he was happy with the amount he has received.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: How much more does the honourable member want? The Australian Government is providing 49 per cent of the State's total revenue, an increase of 9 per cent over the previous year.

Sir Charles Court: And how much of it is tied?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The amount provided by the Australian Government is absolutely unprecedented.

Mr Rushton: You need a fair bit to cover the cost of stamps.

Sir Charles Court: Are you talking about tied grants?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: No, I am talking about the total amount of Commonwealth assistance. Tied grants amount to a very small proportion of the total.

Sir Charles Court: They are increasing each year.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I have already given the House the figures relating to tied grants. The Premier estimates that he will receive in 1975-76 an amount of \$376.547 million in untied, general revenue grants as compared with last year's amount of \$293 377 631. The Premier's estimate of general revenue grants for 1975-76 represents an increase of 28.4 per cent over the previous year. I forecast that he will receive more than the estimate; it always has been so. But still the Premier is not satisfied!

Sir Charles Court: From your experience you would realise that we need a greater increase because we must account not only for inflation but also for other factors.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: There are a lot of factors involved.

Sir Charles Court: My word there are!

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Premier has deliberately thrown money away. He stated there was no chance of this State joining Medibank, and that the Government would not change its mind. There were times when principle meant more than dollars and cents. They were brave words, but at the finish the Premier fell over himself trying to get in at the commencement of the scheme. His tardiness cost the State at least \$2 million. If that money had been received by the Government joining Medibank on the due date, it could have been used to keep the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board workers employed.

Sir Charles Court: You oversimplify the matter.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Premier threw away \$2 million for no reason at all.

Mr Rushton: Under that theory, the Commonwealth Government should still have \$2 million to spare.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I see; solicitude for the Commonwealth. This is a new attitude.

Mr Rushton: Well, that is your theory.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is a new attitude. The point I am making is that there is no justification for the State foregoing that amount of money. If the State had acted quickly enough—and it had ample time—we could have joined the scheme from the 1st July and been \$2 million better off. But that money has been just thrown away.

Another avenue where money can be saved is in the area of electoral rolls. There is no valid argument against having joint Federal-State electoral rolls. My Government agreed with the Commonwealth that this would be done. It would save a very substantial sum of money if it were done. Why will not the Government do it?

Mr Jamieson: It might be centralising.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is another cost against the people of this State which could be saved. Let us look at the railways. The Premier mentioned earlier that the South Australian Budget probably was a balanced Budget. But if it still had its railways to contend with, it would not have a balanced Budget. I do not know whether it is or is not; but, in view of the poor mouth which the Premier continually

cries I would like to know how he is going to meet this expenditure. I quote from a recent newspaper article, which states—

Upgrading of line would cost \$35 million.

An estimated \$35 million over four or five years would be needed to upgrade the Perth-Kalgoorlie railway line.

The Railways Commissioner, Mr R. J. Pascoe, said in the annual report of Westrail, tabled in the Legislative Assembly yesterday, that consistent increases in freight traffic had caused track maintenance problems—particularly on the standard gauge line.

Restrictions on speed and load had been imposed so that there would be no compromise on safety . . .

It was becoming increasingly clear that the railways would have to lift standards to meet the demands being made on the tracks.

With reference to this matter, it is interesting to read a statement which appeared in a publication titled *Inside Canberra*. It states—

The Federal Government has ordered 1300 new rail trucks as part of a plan to divert to the railways freight now carried by road. State railways had to reject \$66 million worth of freight last year because of lack of rolling stock, according to Federal circles.

The new rolling stock will be leased to the States but will remain the property of the Commonwealth Railways in anticipation of more States agreeing to hand their railway systems over to the Australian Government. (So far, only South Australia and Tasmania have agreed to this and the Senate Opposition is blocking the enabling legislation for South Australia). The Minister for Transport, Mr Jones, believes no government will be capable of building and maintaining roads to handle heavy transports if the present rate of increase continues and that the only rational solution is to provide adequate rail transport. This, it is contended, would not only save huge sums in road maintenance but would be a major contribution to road safety.

It is all very well for this Government, because of a principle to which it subscribes, to say it is going to hang onto its railways, irrespective of anything. But we are getting into such a very serious financial situation with the railways that the Government will not be able to hold that position indefinitely.

Some time ago, I asked a question of the Minister for Railways regarding derailments; apparently the position is so serious

that the Minister is unable to provide me with an answer. I quote from page 1827 of the current *Hansard*—

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many derailments have occurred during the past 12 months on this State Government's railway lines and what was the cause of each?
- (2) Will he specify the derailments and give the resultant costs involved in each?
- (3) At the present time on which lines are reductions in—
  - (a) loads;
  - (b) speeds operating because of requirements of safety?
- (4) Which additional lines are at present being considered for reductions in either loads or speeds because of safety requirements?
- (5) Where reductions in loads or speeds during the last 12 months have been applied, in what number of instances has action been the result of—
  - (a) union representation;
  - (d) departmental initiative?

Those questions were asked on the 12th August last, or almost two months ago, but I am still waiting for the answers. Increasingly the Government seems to be adopting the method of grouping the questions and giving a single answer, and in so doing avoid answering the questions at all. I am sorry to see that more recently the Deputy Premier has been adopting this method of answering questions. However, the answer of the Minister to the questions I asked was as follows—

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (5) The information sought by the Member is not readily available and will take some little time to collate.

I will forward it to him as soon as possible.

After two months I am still waiting for the information.

Mr Davies: The Government would know all the speed restrictions from the weekly notices.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is indicative of the parlous state of the railways. To put the railways into anything like good condition will cost millions, but I see no provision at all in the Revenue Estimates or the Loan Estimates for this purpose.

We can assume that the state of the railways will get worse and worse. How long will the people of the State put up with this state of affairs? The time will come when the Government will have no option but to seek help elsewhere.

Sir Charles Court: Why should we have to do that? The railways are kept better under our Government than under yours.

Mr Davies: It is getting much more from the loan funds.

Sir Charles Court: Look at how much we got last year and the year before. New railways are being built by us.

Mr Davies: I am looking at the figures and I am shocked.

Sir Charles Court: The honourable member is in a continual state of shock.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It is obvious that the Government is in an untenable position. The estimate of the Commissioner of Railways is \$35 million. Where will this sort of money come from? It is only a matter of common sense to realise the railways will grind to a halt, or we will have an increased number of derailments and more loss of life; and for this the Government will have to take the ultimate responsibility.

Mr Skidmore: Or else it will take an ore train five days to get down here from Koolyanobbing.

Sir Charles Court: We will be carrying more tonnages this year than ever before.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Government has adopted the methods which the previous Government to a lesser degree adopted of increasing taxes and charges. In view of its Budget the Government could not possibly impose further increases in taxes and charges, with the one exception; it has made all the smokers in this State general benefactors. They are the benefactors, and not the Government.

These are the things which the Government has set out to do—assistance with regard to pay-roll tax for small business, increase in living-away-from-home allowances for students, and increase in allowances to foster mothers. Who will pay for them? I suggest the people who smoke tobacco.

Sir Charles Court: The people can avoid it easily. You and I will not contribute very much.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is a different aspect. I am simply emphasising that suddenly the Government is making the smokers the benefactors.

Mr Rushton: On your reasoning the Commonwealth Government is not worried about our tax.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Minister should not make any mistake in that regard. The Australian Government has no reason to be worried about this Government. The situation is that the tax imposed on the selling of tobacco is expected to bring in \$3.2 million this financial year, and \$5 million in a full financial year. The total amount involved in the handouts which the Government is making comes to less

than the amount to be received from the tobacco tax. We cannot escape the fact that the smokers have been called upon to pay for the increased allowance to students, the increased allowance to foster mothers, and the assistance to certain small businesses by enabling them to escape the pay-roll tax.

Mr Rushton: What about the extra postal charges imposed by the Commonwealth?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am telling the Minister the smokers are providing the money in this case.

Mr Rushton: The Commonwealth Government would need all that money to pay for the extra handouts.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That has nothing to do with this matter.

Sir Charles Court: The Commonwealth Government will be getting more from the extra postal and telephone charges than we will get from the tobacco tax.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That has nothing to do with the matter.

Sir Charles Court: If there is any logic in what you say, that is the same reason.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Fancy the Premier putting forward that argument, having regard to what his Government has done in respect of increased water and electricity charges. In view of his remark I am obliged to give him the details.

Mr Clarko: How much did you put up the cost of hospital treatment?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Not as much as the present Government has done.

Mr Clarko: Inflation is vastly different today.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: In the term of my Government there was one increase in electricity charges in three years; but under the present Government there have been three increases in the last 18 months.

Mr Bertram: This Government is supposed to be putting things right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Seeing that I have been provoked into giving the details I shall have the greatest of pleasure in doing so. In the last 18 months this Government has increased electricity charges on three occasions; there have been two rises in water rates; there has been on the average a 65 per cent increase in motor vehicle registration; there have been increased bus and train fares, and country rail freights; and there have been higher hospital charges and SGIO insurance premiums.

If it is a valid argument to refer to the increased postal charges imposed by the Australian Government, surely the same argument applies to the increased charges I have just mentioned. It is exactly the same argument.

Mr Davies: Look at some of the increases in departmental charges.

Sir Charles Court: Let us get back to the smokers. If we follow your argument, it will be the means of keeping some people in employment.

Mr Skidmore: The devious mind is working again.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I want the smokers to know how much the foster mothers, how much the parents of school children, and how much the small businesses appreciate their generosity. Of course this is not costing the Government even one dollar. In order to give these handouts the Government takes the money from the smokers. Although the Premier says it will not involve him—

Sir Charles Court: It will not involve you or me.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: —or myself in any additional expenditure, I am not claiming to be a benefactor, but the Premier is. That is the difference.

Sir Charles Court: One of the big advantages of the tobacco tax is that anyone can avoid it if he wishes.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That does not alter what I am saying.

Sir Charles Court: It does. You cannot avoid other taxes to the same extent, such as the increased petrol tax in some States.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: It will not cost the Government one dollar in giving these handouts, and the smokers will be providing all the wherewithal. The simplest illustration is this: If the Government decided to give these benefits, without imposing the tobacco tax, it would have to find from somewhere else the \$3.2 million this financial year, but because the smokers are to be taxed the Government does not have to find that money.

Sir Charles Court: What a spurious argument! Would you prefer us not to give the benefits, or would you prefer us to impose extra charges in respect of stamp duty?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I am not saying that I would rather the Government did not. I am talking about what the Government has done.

Mr Bateman: It will have to account for this.

Mr Clarko: Is the Opposition not putting itself up as the alternative Government?

Mr Bateman: The Tonkin Government did not go on with all the nonsense that is now going on.

Mr McIver: Our Government reduced the charges on electricity and water.

Mr Bateman: Why does not the Premier grow up and learn?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: This Government invariably wants to take credit, where credit is not due to it. It wants to place the blame on somebody else where the Government itself is to blame. The Government has gone quiet about the \$2 million cost to the State which resulted from its tardiness with regard to the introduction of Medibank. That does not matter to the Government; but it is money that has been lost. There is a time when principle transcends dollars and cents. What happened to principle when the Government broke its neck to try to get in earlier?

Sir Charles Court: The way we went about it, we kept the doctors in the country.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is a new angle which I hope members will note with emphasis: the Government was able to keep doctors in the country.

Sir Charles Court: We would have lost every doctor in the country if we had signed the original agreement.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I conclude by making it very plain that what has been said about this Government inheriting an empty Treasury is all nonsense. The member for Scarborough who claims to be such an authority on finance wanted to debate this question with me on television, and he was supported by the Premier. He said this Government inherited an empty Treasury, and my Government had spent all the money. So, it is only fair for me to go through the figures for a four-year period.

In 1970-71—and that was the year we went into office—there was in the Public Account a sum of \$122 708 110. That was \$3 894 061 more than was held in 1969-70. The Auditor-General reported it was sufficient to finance a deficit of \$4 368 120. At the same time the cash resources at the Treasury were \$65 870 270, a decrease of \$2 305 010. So the year we went into Government there was a decrease in the cash resources at the Treasury according to the Auditor-General.

Now I will refer to the 1972-73 Public Account. A sum of \$14 166 838 more was held or invested than in 1971-72 when we went into office. The moneys held in the Public Account were sufficient to finance a deficit of \$4 380 481 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The cash resources at the Treasury were up to \$81 270 158, an increase of \$7 458 016, compared with 1971-72 when we went into office.

Now for 1973-74. That was the time our Treasury was supposed to be empty and the present Treasurer and his colleagues were to have a special inquiry to find out where the money had gone. It was an empty barrel!

At that time a sum of \$178 295 000 was held or invested in the Public Account, which was \$23 689 000 more than was held

or invested at the close of 1973. So, as far as the cash resources were concerned, there was a total of \$93 232 000, an increase of \$11 962 000 compared with the previous year. I ask members to compare that amount with what was available when we went into office when the cash reserves of the Treasury showed a decrease of \$2 305 010. What a hide the Treasurer and the member for Scarborough had to talk about an empty Treasury and the necessity for a special inquiry! That was the poppycock put over the electors at the time in an attempt to discredit us and show what wonderful fellows members opposite were.

Members opposite, then in Opposition, said they would love to have an opportunity to put things right. The present Treasurer was going to stake his reputation on doing it within a period of six months.

Sir Charles Court: In August, 1971, with a co-operative Federal Government.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Australian Government is providing 49 per cent of the total revenue for this State and the Treasurer is still complaining. I point out to the Treasurer that no other State receives anything like that proportion of its revenue from the Australian Government.

Sir Charles Court: Is the Leader of the Opposition satisfied with the treatment we received?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I intended to conclude my remarks earlier, but I feel I must say to the Treasurer that he was the one who was going to cure inflation. He had a special theory and a special method of doing that. At the present time he is enjoying—I wonder whether or not that is the correct word—the distinction of having the highest inflation rate of any State in the whole of Australia. The Treasurer quite wrongly blamed the price of meat because the price of beef is going down, and not up.

Sir Charles Court: That is not a statement of fact.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Is it not?

Sir Charles Court: When we were dealing with that particular matter in this House the price paid to farmers for meat was higher in Western Australia than in any other State.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: We will see whether or not what I said was factual.

Sir Charles Court: I quoted figures out of the Commonwealth Statistician's report.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: But the Treasurer quotes all sorts of figures.

Sir Charles Court: If the Leader of the Opposition desires to criticise the Commonwealth Statistician, that is his business.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I will now refer to 1974-75 and mention the percentage change from the same quarter of the preceding year. The percentage change for the six capitals was 16.9 per cent; Sydney, 16.9 per cent; Melbourne, 16.3 per cent; Brisbane, 14.7 per cent; Adelaide, 18.2 per cent; Perth, 20.1 per cent; Hobart, 16.5 per cent; and Canberra, 13.8 per cent.

Now for food prices. The percentage change for Perth was 12.9 per cent. The national average was 5.2 per cent, and the figure for Brisbane was 2.4 per cent. In June, 1975, the national average increase was 0.4 per cent; in July it was 0.3 per cent; and for August it was 0.7 per cent. The August figure for Perth, in 1975, increased by 0.8 per cent. The major factor in the Perth rise for August was the 5.5 per cent jump in the price of dairy products. Mutton and lamb prices fell, as did the cost of potatoes and onions. Beef and pork prices rose.

In referring to the index figures from the Treasury the Premier says—

By looking at them members opposite will find the sole cause for Western Australia having a higher CPI figure is the price of meat.

How anyone can arrive at that conclusion after a close examination of those figures completely mystifies me.

Mr Speaker, as you would gather, I think the Budget is phony. I think time will show that the Estimates are very much astray. I am sorry the Treasurer has disregarded the opinion of the Auditor-General and decided to provide in the separate departmental Estimates a provision for wages and salary increases. I can only conclude that his purpose in doing this is to try to build up a nest egg which he will be able to use to advantage on some later occasion.

Sir Charles Court: I hope you are right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The Premier was reported as having made a statement that I would find it difficult to criticise the Budget. I think I have shown it presented me with no difficulty at all.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Clarko.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Council's Amendments*

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

### *In Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Thompson) in the Chair; Mr O'Neill (Minister for Works) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows—

### No. 1.

Clause 10, Page 6, lines 7 to 14—  
Delete the passage "north-easterly

and again easterly along that centre line to the centre line of a road passing along the northern boundaries of Locations 1585 and 1913; thence easterly, southerly and again easterly along that centre line and onwards to the centre line of Road Number 6937; thence easterly and northerly along that centre line and onwards to the centre line of Gnanagara Road; thence generally north-easterly and easterly" and substitute the passage "north-easterly, again easterly, again generally north-easterly, again easterly, again generally north-easterly and again easterly".

### No. 2.

Clause 10, Page 6, lines 43 to 48—Delete the passage "centre line of Old York Road; thence generally south-westerly along that centre line and onwards to and along the centre line of the Great Eastern Highway to the prolongation north-westerly of the centre line of Wilkie Road; thence south-easterly to and south-easterly and southerly along that centre line and onwards" and substitute the passage "northern boundary of Class 'A' Reserve 25313 (Greenmount National Park); thence westerly and southerly along boundaries of that Reserve to the prolongation easterly of the northern side of Frederic Street; thence westerly along that prolongation".

### No. 3.

Clause 10, Page 7, last line—Delete the words "Garden and Rottneest Islands" and substitute the words "Rottneest Island".

Mr O'NEIL: I move—

That amendments Nos. 1 to 3 made by the Council be agreed to.

The Committee will recall that during the debate on the Electoral Districts Act Amendment Bill certain matters were raised relative to the boundary line between the metropolitan electorates and those in the country. Three particular points were raised in debate, apart from an amendment which appeared in my name on the notice paper.

In respect of those three points I refer to the area in the north where the boundary originally departed from Gnanagara Road, the area in the east where the boundary departed from the edge of a national park and followed a road, and the area in the south where it was said the boundary went through the

middle of a building. I gave an undertaking that I would check those points and, if there were no technical reasons or reasons occasioned by surveying practice that the northern and eastern boundaries could not be altered, those amendments would be made.

I pointed out that in respect of the southern boundary, despite the fact that it went through the Western Mining nickel refinery, it was the boundary between two local authorities. The Legislative Council has effected changes in respect of the first two boundaries. In the northern area the boundary has been placed along Gnanagara Road instead of departing from it for a small distance, and in the east the boundary has been restored to where it was prior to the amending Bill. In the south the boundary still remains passing through the Western Mining nickel refinery.

In addition, I think it was at the request of the Opposition that consideration was given to where Garden Island would be located. In that respect an amendment had appeared on the notice paper in this Chamber. That amendment has also been effected.

Mr JAMIESON: If we on this side are to agree to anything in connection with this Bill, this is about all it will be. It seems to be a straightening out of the problems, some of which I referred to when the debate took place in this Chamber. If we are to have boundaries, it is desirable that they be as simple as possible and conform with geographical features.

I am sure in the ultimate that leaving Garden Island in its original place, outside the metropolitan area, will make the commissioners much happier. I understand only 10 or 12 people are enrolled in that area now but it would have inconvenienced them to have to go over the causeway and up to Rockingham, Cockburn, or Fremantle to be in a position to vote.

The only other comment I want to make is that we still strongly oppose the idea of having a metropolitan boundary. But if we are to have one, the simpler it is in structure the better for all concerned.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

### Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

House adjourned at 6.00 p.m.