

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 27 August 1985

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

MINING AMENDMENT BILL

Select Committee: Extension of Time

HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan) [4.34 p.m.]—by leave: I am directed to report that the committee has resolved to seek an extension of time within which to present its report from 15 July 1985 to Tuesday, 22 October 1985. I move—

That the report do lie upon the Table and be adopted and agreed to.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 22 August.

HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West) [4.36 p.m.]: On 15 August 1956 I rose in this place to make my maiden speech. I was sitting to the right of where Hon. Garry Kelly now sits and to the left of Hon. S. M. Piantadosi, because there were only three seats in the row at that time. On that occasion, I was full of trepidation, but as members will see, I am still here as living proof that there is life after maiden speeches. I do not face the ordeal with the fear that I had on that first occasion. I had two excellent members on my right. One was Hon. Gordon Hislop, a knowledgeable member of this establishment and a man who had a tremendous amount to do with the protection of the miners in this State from the disease known as miners' phthisis, as it was called in those days, and the incorporation of its section in the Workers' Compensation Act. The members from Kalgoorlie looked towards Mr Hislop for a good deal of advice.

On my left was Sir Keith Watson, who was an eminent tax consultant and a man who never ceased to take every opportunity to speak on matters of State and Federal relations and finance. He was a master in his grasp of that subject. I must admit that these men were extremely helpful to me. They were brusque if a member happened to interfere or start talking when they were interested in listening to a debate, and they left one in no doubt whatsoever

that they considered their job was to listen, observe, and answer intelligently the comments made by other people.

I have a tremendous number of people to whom I look back with extreme gratitude. Not the least of those was a man who occupied the seat now taken by the slightly more formidable bulk of Hon. Des Dans. That man was Gilbert Fraser. The relationship between Gilbert Fraser and Keith Watson started when both were messengers with the Post Master General's Department at the age of 14 years. That was a particularly sought after job because one had the use of a push bike which was a notable means of getting around at that age. It has to be preferred over shanks's pony.

One of the great differences between today and times past is that one was able to study and persevere to rise to quite eminent heights. I am not sure that that same opportunity prevails today. It may prevail in the commerce and retail trades; but most professions seem out of reach for the majority of people unless a university degree is held. It appears to be happening in politics. I am not sure if that is a good thing. It might be accidental. Education is so easy to come by these days that anyone who has the desire or need to get on can. It may be that there are not the number of bright young fellows who have to cut their education because of financial restrictions within the community or their families. Perhaps anyone with the capacity to obtain a degree is able to do so.

It is a pity that I cannot make my speech on the Address-in-Reply on the thirtieth anniversary of my maiden speech. This opportunity to participate in the Address-in-Reply debate is the twenty-ninth anniversary of that speech. It is interesting to note that the matters I touched on in my maiden speech on the Address-in-Reply were political problems of the time. The Lieutenant-Governor in his Speech at that time said that the north-west of the State was coming into its own. There was a lot of talk about the north-west in 1956 and from then on there was constant hope of its development.

I remember all the speeches and arguments about the development of iron ore in the north-west. I remember the number of Labor members who considered that such development was a pie-in-the-sky concept. That was a favourite phrase they used. Some of the programmes that were started did turn out to be pie-in-the-sky dreams. It is with regret that we recall some of the irrigation projects, the development of lot feeding of cattle, the growing of

different grains such as sorghum and the development of ports, all of which for some reason or another had been stymied.

I recall a discussion I had with Mr Bill Willesee, one time leader of the Labor Party in this House, about the growing of rice and such crops in the Northern Territory. I had spent some time in that area and was very aware of the very lush nature of much of the Territory. The tremendous amount of swamp land harboured a dense population of bird life. One needs to see it to believe it. Until I saw it actually done, I never thought that with one .303 rifle one could kill several magpie geese. I did it myself just by lying down and shooting across the swamp. The birds were so dense one could not miss them. Their effect on rice crops in some of these places had to be seen to be believed. Landowners put in all kinds of special chemical guns which were activated by the drip feed of certain chemicals and water. Every now and again they went off with a reverberating bang. The birds took very little notice of them, except for squawking for the first five minutes when they went off. The birds came in in droves to eat the grain and played absolute havoc with the crops. I must admit that there has been some development since then.

I am given to understand that those who grow crops in such areas now have achieved success by providing special areas for the birds, complete with water and free feed of broken grain. They must make sure that not a vestige of water is to be seen where the crops are grown so that the birds will not land. They leave an attractive spot for the birds to land on water at another location where they free-feed them with broken grain. Our competitors in Asiatic countries probably do not have that same problem because they hand plant. Their paddy fields are always totally covered. Such is the density of population in such countries that they would not have the same trouble with birds. In the past birds were probably eaten by hungry peasants. I did not see too many birds on a recent visit to China and I took it for granted that that was the reason.

In 1956 I represented the South-West Province. It was interesting that at that time the South-West Province extended from East Rockingham around the coast to Walpole, taking in Mr Stretch's territory within 15 miles of Kojonup. It took in all of Collie and all of Boddington. It was not the biggest electorate in the State, but it was certainly the most complex. It is interesting to note that it grew a number of crops which have since totally disap-

peared. The growing of flax was a matter for great discussion. It was grown in the Boyup Brook area, having been started as a wartime measure. It was needed for webbing and other military equipment. The uses of flax have long since been taken over by synthetics and flax production has disappeared from Boyup Brook. The equipment and the sheds were left at Boyup Brook. I remember visiting the area with Hon. A. A. Lewis on several occasions. We tried to find a use for those buildings. I think uses have been found for them in the youth recreational field, cultural activities, and the like. They were very sound buildings. It is always a pity to see such buildings wasted.

Another good effect flowed from the harvesting of flax. The growing of flax necessitated well-prepared fields and most of the farmers finished up with fields with about as many bumps as there are on the floor of this Chamber. I do not suppose that the growing of other crops has necessitated the same standard. Rape seed and lupins have been grown since then. I gather that they have come and gone and are not presently grown. Perhaps they will be grown again if there is a need for oil seeds.

It is interesting to consider the way political problems have come and gone. In my maiden speech I devoted some time to discussing timber. I made that speech only some 10 years after the end of the war, and some of the problems caused by the war were still with us. Over that period we lost our traditional export markets for timber. We were very anxious to get them back. We succeeded to a large extent, only to lose them again with the decline in production of timber and many other problems.

There has always been a big market for railway sleepers. I well recall the violent arguments that took place in this and another place and in Cabinet over the use of cement sleepers. In using cement sleepers one was often using a product which was more local than was timber. Timber had to come from the south-west, but one could frequently make sleepers from sand and brick which had been produced in some cases alongside the railway line.

For every timber sleeper used around the world today there would be probably 100 concrete sleepers, timber having given way to concrete for a variety of reasons. The fastenings of concrete sleepers seem to be better and termites do not find concrete quite as easy to eat. I always thought it was a shame that those magnificent hardwoods of the Western Australian forests were cut down and sawn into sleepers. It

is difficult today to understand that in earlier times people made a living from cutting down those trees and hand-hewing them into sleepers. I had two uncles who did just that and who finished up very well-to-do farmers. Their families are still reaping the benefit of their hard work. They saved up, bought the rights to the timber and cut it. They used the money to buy a small freehold piece of land on which again they cut timber and put together enough money to buy the timber rights on another block of land and so on. Fortunately, they survived and their schemes worked out. At that time it was possible to get ahead with hard work.

Tobacco was a big crop in the Manjimup area. Tobacco was prevented from being grown in Western Australia by Mr Rupert, a South African who developed Rothman cigarettes, Rothman and Pall Mall being one of the biggest tobacco manufactureres and cigarette producers in the world today. The fellow used to lecture at the university and tried out his own schemes by buying a small tobacco company in England and applying principles he had lectured on with absolutely breathtaking success.

In those days the Federal Government offered a bonus for the use of Australian leaf. Rothmans made a large profit from advertising the fact that they would not stoop to putting such an inferior leaf as that grown in Manjimup into the manufacture of their high class cigarettes and that they bought nothing but South African, Rhodesian, and American tobacco. As a result the bottom fell out of the market for Australian tobacco, which is a great pity. One of the problems with growing tobacco in that area was that the farmers did not get to the stage of irrigating the land. Despite a great deal of water being available in Manjimup with the occasional rain, there was a surge of nutrients into the tobacco crop which led to an increase of nitrogen in the leaf. This led to problems which were difficult to cure out and handle in the production of tobacco.

They worked hard to eradicate that peculiar taste in the Michaelides President brand of cigarettes. I often smoked those cigarettes when I was too poor to buy other tobacco and they certainly had a taste of their own.

The Warren growers had overcome the problems of the tobacco by the simple expedient of constant irrigation and by keeping the water intake of the plant at a regular level. Most of the problems associated with the surge of nitrogen had, in fact, been overcome. I remember talking to Mr Morgan, a most enthusiastic ALP

supporter and secretary of the tobacco growers' association at that time and I nearly got my head chopped off for suggesting that they change from tobacco to the growing of vegetables. I was perhaps a little ahead of my time because I feel sure that as much money is made out of vegetables in that area now as there ever was from tobacco.

The Warren area is magnificent; it is blessed with good soil and is the only part of the State with a continuous supply of fresh water suitable for irrigation. This Parliament has done its best to ensure that it will remain that way forever. The Country Areas Water Supply Act limits the farmers' ability to clear their land and I take a great deal of pride in the introduction of that legislation despite the fact that I got into a great deal of trouble about it at the time.

A member: And so you should.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am not too sure whether that interjection means that I should take some pride or that I should have got into trouble.

A member: That you should take some pride.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The question asked was whether any tobacco was being grown in that area now. I do not think any tobacco is grown by residents for their own use. It is a long time since I have heard of fellows growing illegal tobacco to smoke. It was pretty raw stuff and it is a fairly slow process to cure, develop, and blend tobacco into a mixture which suits the developed taste of those who smoke. Perhaps this question might be directed to those eminently enthusiastic representatives of the area, Hon. A. A. Lewis and Hon. W. N. Stretch.

The dairy industry has changed a great deal. At the time I went to a number of meetings in respect of farmers being made by the Hawke Government to bridge the gap between the cost of clearing land and the production value of the land after it was cleared. In those days it was considered that the difference was about £17 an acre; in short, taking the cost to buy the land initially and to get it cleared to pasture. When it reached a productive basis it was probably worth £17 less an acre than it had cost. That has changed dramatically over the years.

The first scheme on which I worked was to bridge the gap and give a few developing farmers a subsidy in order to get the land cleared.

The dairying industry has changed quite dramatically; it probably has fewer than half the number of producers it had previously. Much

of the emphasis has moved from the Brunswick area to Cowaramup and Margaret River. It has made a tremendous difference to the area, combined with the new development of the grape growing industry and the production of first-grade wine. It has created a great deal of tourist activity and following on from that, development of small holdings, a hobby activity which is sometimes pursued full-time and sometimes part-time. The whole area south of Busselton has metamorphosised. It is different altogether in its outlook. For many years it was a poverty-stricken area, almost as bad as Northcliffe. It was going steadily downhill and losing population. It is now a vibrant district which has been blessed with progressive local authorities for a number of years. Without a great deal of help from outside sources, the Augusta-Margaret River Shire has provided magnificent facilities such as halls and recreation buildings. Even the churches reflect great credit on the people. Many differences are evident in these areas.

I notice that yet again the codling moth attacked the apple crop in 1956. We do not hear about that problem very much these days. We have spent fortunes on tree-pulling schemes and the like and the apple industry today would not be recognised by people who last saw it 40 years ago. The handling of the apples leaves very little to be desired. They are picked with great care and from that stage are handled very little. They are brought in in large pallets, placed in water, and floated out of the holding into totally different types of graders. The whole situation for the picking and grading of the fruit is totally different from what it was when I was a young fellow.

We fought bitterly to eradicate the codling moth from the State and were successful. The problem they now have is not of the same magnitude because the industry is so different. The apple industry will probably develop even more sophisticated methods of handling.

I was interested to see the Japanese apple which was on sale in Hong Kong and other Asiatic countries. The apple was almost as big as a small rockmelon. The fruit is literally hand tended on the tree, turned regularly so that the fruit has the same colour overall, picked at a stage of perfect ripeness, and packed in individual containers which look like baskets but are made of soft plastic material. The apples sell for about \$3 or \$4 each. I was not terribly impressed by the taste of the fruit and my Scottish ancestry permitted me to buy only one.

A Lady Williams or a good Delicious suits my palate better. I even like the Granny Smith apple, but the difficulty with that variety is that Western Australia is the only place which consistently grows a good Granny Smith apple for eating as distinct from cooking. They can be bought in other parts of the world, but the taste cannot be determined until after the apple has been eaten and it is often a disappointment to buy them elsewhere. The Japanese apples suit that market because the people peel them carefully and cut them into small segments before eating them. If we are going to remain in the market we shall have to give away the idea of sending small fruit to Asia. Producers will have to grow the large specialised fruit which the Asian market seems to prefer.

It is interesting to note that coal took up a considerable portion of my initial comments. At that time the Collie coalfield was still in the cost-plus system which had been developed during the war years and continued under the Hawke Government.

(Question taken.)

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Three-quarters of an hour later I am able to resume my speech! Anyone of an excitable frame of mind speaking full force on a subject about which he felt very seriously might find such a delay rather harassing. In the interests of peace, perhaps at some future time we should look at the circumstances in which questions are taken.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You did not look particularly harassed during that stand-out period.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I have developed methods of overcoming that sort of tension, Mr Gayfer, and I exercise those meditative skills from time to time.

I was talking about coal during the period 1956 when we had a cost-plus system. In 1960 this system suddenly became very dear to the hearts of the members of the Labor Party. I am not sure why, because it was quite a corrupt system which was stopped in the early 1960s by Hon. David Brand. The cost-plus system was exactly as described; whatever the cost it was added on to the price of coal. At that time it ran the price of coal to such extraordinary heights that the State was using a considerable amount of oil for energy. It continued to do so until the early to mid-1970s when oil prices went through the roof and the whole attitude towards production of energy had to be re-examined.

Collie suffered at that time also because of the problems associated with short-term contracts with the SEC and the railways. It seems odd that services contracts were entered into with railways for the supply of Collie coal, but the coal could not be used in the summer months. The farming lobby had been successful in persuading the Government to import Newcastle coal for use in the railway engines during summer months because of the tendency for Collie coal to emit too much fly ash and thereby risk starting innumerable bushfires. That was a source of constant arguments between Collie miners and the farmers.

Suffice to say that in order to try to cut costs, open-cast mining was introduced and again a tremendous row ensued with the unions and many other people taking action. The president of the union in those days was an avowed Communist called Bill Latter. His assistant was a very hard-working young fellow by the name of Tom Jones and the local member was Harry May who had followed his father-in-law, Arthur Wilson into office. Tom Jones was expected to follow Harry May as the local member and it is amusing to note how history is repeating itself. There was a delay of three years before that took place, and Harry May stepped into harness once more. The feeling in Collie was that Harry May was leaving office too soon and he was asked to stay a further term.

Today Tom Jones has been asked to remain as member for a further three years. The Labor Party has run terribly sacred with regard to any change in the incumbent in Collie. I cannot for the life of me think why, unless it does its sums better than I was able to. I do not know why it is scared of losing the seat of Collie. Perhaps the Labor Party thinks people are waking up to it and that is why it is asking Tom Jones to stand again.

I made an abortive attempt to form a club, called the Tom Jones club. I thought if I could get Mr Jamieson to act as president, I would be secretary, Mr Bateman could be treasurer, and we could all try to join the come-back trail. If Tom Jones can do it, I did not see why the rest of us could not. However, the other members seemed to be happy with their plans for retirement and my scheme came to nothing. Therefore, members can settle in their somnambulist state without being alarmed at the possibility of putting up with the rest of us for another term. Only one of the originally retiring members will be back. History is repeating itself in the Collie area. Of course, Harry May is long gone.

The cost-plus system was finally got rid of in Collie. I had to face a couple of pretty fiery meetings during that period, when for one reason or another, I was the only member of the Liberal Party who could be present. Those meetings were excellent training for the meetings in connection with the closure of the Wooroloo hospital and for those in the Tone River area, Mr Stretch's country, to talk about the clearing control legislation. I will refer to that at a later stage.

In those days conservation was just raising its head and there were problems with regard to the use of fertilisers on farming lands and the flow of those fertilisers and superphosphate into the dams, inducing algae growth and the like. The conservation movement had not reached the peak that it now has.

The speaker who followed me was Georgie Bennetts. He used to sit on the bench in front of where I now am. He was one of the most remarkable members, a very hard-working member of the Labor Party who originally put up in the goldfields seat which it was thought he did not have an earthly hope of winning. At the time he was in charge of one of the coaches in the east-west train on transcontinental railways. He stood for the seat purely and simply because of loyalty to the Labor Party. He defeated the incumbent Liberal conservative candidate and became a member of Parliament. He was an extremely entertaining speaker and when he rose to his feet messages were sent to the Assembly and members of that House came to listen to him. I remember one of his more memorable speeches during the debate on iron ore when he made an impassioned plea to Arthur Griffith, who was Minister for Mines at the time.

He said far too much concern was given to "igh-grade hores" within the mineral zones of the State and far more attention ought to have been given to the "low-grade hores" prevalent in his area. I am not insulting the man when I use his pronunciation because I was tremendously fond of Georgie Bennetts. In those days there were men of great renown in this State who, because of the sheer physical difficulties of the locality, had not been able to attend schools where they would have learnt English as well as most of us today. Georgie's habit of dropping his h's made his speeches hilarious. I am quite sure he knew jolly well he was being funny and exaggerated the pronunciation he used.

I might add that *Hansard* has not lost its touch because if one looks back at the record he will see Mr Bennetts' speeches are transcribed

in this way—and I will loosely paraphrase what is recorded in *Hansard*—“I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister for Mines the need to pay much greater attention to the lower grade mineral deposits which are so prevalent in the areas I represent. There is a great deal being said about the higher quality ores which are available. It is natural that overseas importers . . .”, and so it goes on in the most impeccable English. Mr Bennetts would have his speeches promptly printed and circulated to his constituents in a little book with his picture on the front. They were all duly impressed and returned him year after year, much to our delight.

There was another Liberal member, Mr Cunningham, who was a great friend. That particular member was an excellent sketch artist and a good illustrator, like Bill Withers. One of the most humorous of his sketches was when we had a President before you, Sir, called Lloyd Loton. While he was a member he brought forward a Bill each year to try to restrain people from the city going to the nearby country areas and hunting mushrooms because they used to cause trouble. He tried to restrict their activities without success, because as members know we have always been jealous of citizens' rights to travel across paddocks. There is a section in the cattle trespass Act which specifies that if an entire animal is found grazing on one's land and is there for more than 24 hours the owner of the land may castrate it. It is still in the Local Government Act if anyone cares to read it.

I remember when Jack Cunningham sent around a sketch showing a lovely picnic party with Dad, Mum, and the children. In that sketch Dad was strapped to the fence with his trousers around his ankles and this big burly farmer—I think he used Mr Gayfer as a model—was sharpening his knife and asking him if he had ever heard of section 68 of the cattle trespass Act. The President at that time was quite mystified as to why everybody burst into laughter as this piece of paper was passed around.

We then proceeded on with serious debate and in due course—because we did not wish to stop citizens from hunting their mushrooms, and particularly Mr Ray Jones who used to give them to us from time to time—we threw the Bill out.

The area I have represented for many years has changed in its boundaries so frequently that it has never been my pleasure to face the electors on the same boundaries for two elections

in a row. I would like some members of the Australian Labor Party to cogitate on that when they talk about this hidebound House which never changes. It has never been my good fortune to face two successive elections on the same boundaries and over that period the nature of electing citizens to this Chamber has changed dramatically from a voluntary enrolment, voluntary vote on a very small property franchise—I think one had to pay five shillings a week or something—to the open roll it is today.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: You must regret that you are not going to see democracy installed before you go.

Hon. Robert Hetherington interjected.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am quite perturbed at that sort of comment. Andropov, Krushchev, and even Stalin, used to talk about the democratic nature of their countries. I am not so stupid. I think Mr Hetherington means I am not so stupid and ignorant to talk about democracy in that sense which finished early in the history of Athens. I thank him for that compliment. One can invent meanings for words and Hon. Kay Hallahan is inventing her own meaning for the word.

Every person who has opposed me in my electorate since 1956 has had the opportunity to get exactly the same number of votes as I have. It is to my eternal gratification that they never did it. Everyone in my electorate can vote for whichever candidate is put up. Within my electorate that is democracy. One can try to convince people in that electorate that they are being hoodwinked and they will laugh, because I have talked to them in the street and they say quite simplistically as Mr Kelly just said, “I get one vote, the bloke there gets one vote, and everyone over 18 gets one.” That is perfectly simple and logical.

I will repeat what I said when I was at a seminar with Hon. Robert Hetherington. Hon. Des Dans read a speech prepared for him by Mr Arthur Tonkin. It was a bad performance because he knew he did not have a good subject; it was a bad speech, therefore, it was badly delivered. I said at that conference that I could remember the day when Bill Withers on the same day, on the same roll, and on the same issues, won a seat for the Liberal Party. He did it on the same day that Jack Hunt, on the same day, on the same issues, won a seat for the Labor Party. Within six months we were hearing the same tired old clichés that the Labor Party dishes out about the fact that the seats

are organised so that we can win them all, and here we have a seat won on the same day by different people in opposite parties.

Hon. Garry Kelly: The exception that proves the rule.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If that is not a simplistic comment, what is! That is the type of thing one would teach in baby infants' classes. That does not even exist any more. It is now called year 1.

With all the problems members had at that time, mostly political, economic, and some physical, industries like tobacco, flax, and the export of timber, karri and wood chips, and the sleeper trade, have all gone from the South-West Province.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: As the Hon. Jim Brown said a minute ago, I am making more starts than Bernborough!

Hon. J. M. Brown: Just as successful, too!

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am becoming a bit more hesitant with each start. If it happens to other members I suggest they ask *Hansard* for a couple of paragraphs of their speech as a memory refresher. It has been suggested that I recap on the previous three-quarters of an hour of my speech and give everyone a refresher, but I certainly will not do that.

Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: I am sure you won't.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I have mentioned industries which have gone from my electorate, but a number of industries which have come to the area are experiencing their own problems. For instance, the mineral sands industry is new enough; it came to the area during the time I am talking about. When I first started moving into the political field there was no mineral sands mining industry.

Coal has certainly been reborn with the problems of the Middle East and the tremendous increase in the price of oil. Members will recall that the Kwinana power station had to be rescheduled from handling ore to handling Colliery coal.

Hon. Garry Kelly: It was quite an expensive exercise.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It was a very expensive operation, but worth it in the light of the increased costs of using Middle East oil. We are of course in a very fortunate situation with regard to energy of having copious quantities of comparatively easily won coal and we can generate all the power that we are likely to need at reasonable cost. Of course we already have the

uranium and can switch to nuclear power if and when the need arises. I am quite certain that need will arise in the fullness of time, maybe not this century or even the following century, but we will certainly have to follow the pattern of Japan. I find it tremendously interesting that the city of Hiroshima, about which so much is said currently with regard to the atomic bomb, obtains approximately 50 per cent of its power from nuclear power stations.

Hon. Garry Kelly: We might have fusion power by that time!

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Hon. Garry Kelly is certainly looking ahead a long way, but he could well be right. I have only been close to one nuclear power station. It was quite an old one in the United Kingdom and was built right in the centre of a wildflower reserve. I examined this nuclear power station in 1969 when I was looking at the health system in the United Kingdom. At the time I was also Minister for Fisheries and Fauna. It was a lovely retreat. The building there looked more like a hospital than a nuclear power station except that it had a very tall chimney stack which had been ordered by the Alkaline Inspectorate for all UK power stations. No smoke was coming out of one chimney, but I understand a bit of waste went through this very tall stack. I asked what it was and was told it was a nuclear power station.

I am always amazed at the attitude of people who oppose nuclear power. I am alarmed at their lack of humanity when every now and again I see headline stories about fatal accidents in coalmines in Japan, America, Taiwan—that was the last I heard about—and other places, accidents which have caused, 40 or 60 deaths. These coalmines are used for the winning of fuel for thermal power stations. Sometimes deaths from these accidents are of the order of 300 to 500, and in the whole history of nuclear power generation we have yet to see one verified death incurred in either winning the fuel or winning the power. Yet I doubt if a year—or even a quarter of a year—goes by when there is not an accident causing death somewhere in the world because of the winning of fuel for thermal power stations. One is entitled to question the decent humanity of those people who oppose nuclear power stations and really, by definition, therefore condone the winning of coal for thermal power stations.

Hon. Garry Kelly: That is being a bit harsh.

Hon. John Williams: That is true.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: There are times when the truth is harsh. I am only stating the plain straight facts. As recently as last month when I was in Taiwan the local English newspaper recorded yet another coalmine accident in a coalfield dedicated to the winning of coal for a thermal power station.

Hon. Garry Kelly: I do not disagree with you but I think you are unreasonably harsh on those who find trouble with the use of nuclear fuel.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If the member reads the letter I wrote to the newspaper a little while ago with regard to nuclear matters and Hiroshima he will see I have justification for being a bit harsh about the sorts of people who feed some of the information around the community. As I said in that letter, when people get out and object to those who started the war, those who engineered Pearl Harbour and the attacks in Poland and places like that; when they celebrate those events with long lines of mourners instead of celebrating the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, I will stop being harsh. Too many of my mates are lying in unmarked graves. If members do not know what I mean I suggest they go up to Kranji and walk up to that spectacular war cemetery and look at some 40 000 unmarked crosses—not one or two unknown warriors but thousands and thousands of them. They range from my uncle to other relatives, to fellows I knew, to people whom I would not know from a hole in the ground but whom I nevertheless respect.

Coalmines have been reborn and Collie is a thriving town which is starting to see the daylight in regard to other industries. It is a shame that the smelter did not go to Collie. I sincerely hope that the Hon. Sandy Lewis and the Hon. Bill Stretch continue to represent that district for a long time. I am informed the Labor Party does not intend to get a new incumbent for the town itself. Mr Tom Jones whom I mentioned earlier will retry, and I gather that the staunch mining fellow Davidson, or Davo, as he is known, is inciting a lot of interest, so maybe there is good reason for the Labor Party to be worried enough to ask Tom Jones to run again.

Vegetables, other than potatoes, have become a very big industry in the south-west. In the times I have been talking about, potatoes and pumpkins formed the major part of the vegetable industry. The Potato Marketing Board attracted some criticism, even in those days. I was a member of a committee which, under the chairmanship of Hon. Philip Lockyer and with Hon. Graham Edwards and Hon. Sam

Piantadosi, examined the industry. I was proud—we all shared that pride—in the presentation of vegetables in Western Australia. Our vegetables were spoken of highly in the Eastern States. Our export market was a big market. Well over 40 per cent of the product was consumed locally and 60 per cent was marketed overseas. Our techniques in this industry lead the rest of Australia. Our method of chilling fruit—of putting it into what is in effect an over-large vacuum flask and chilling it to a temperature of one degree, then taking out all of the water—is ahead of the rest of Australia. Lettuce is now able to be chilled for 15 days and has a life of three or four days on the shelf. Indeed, many people are very flattering about our vegetable industry. It is the best in Australia.

I think, though, that, of all the vegetables we marketed, the one marketed the least successfully was potatoes. At one stage, an attempt was made to market gourmet potatoes which were about two or three centimetres in diameter. They were quite popular with housewives and restaurants because they could be boiled in their jackets. The Potato Marketing Board was finally convinced that they should be marketed in big crates. However, out of a large handful of such potatoes, only one or two of them would be any good. The rest were watery or lumpish instead of being round and firm. That was a shame. Until we can get someone who can handle the marketing of potatoes more objectively, the industry deserves to be in some trouble. I have had report after report of nobody taking much notice. It could be that Mr Evans, the Minister for Agriculture, is a bit reluctant because most potatoes are grown in the Warren area. However, Mr Stretch and Mr Lewis also come into the argument because they represent that area, too. I think someone must talk to Mr Evans firmly because the industry will be overtaken by interstate trade despite the distance, because the transport and the handling of this produce can now be carried out very readily. I am sure the industry, in the long run, will be overtaken if it does not meet the demand. Our growers successfully marketed vegetables in Sydney. Many of those vegetables were far more perishable than potatoes. I know of one person who made well over \$1 million through the marketing of onions. He did not do that marketing them to a State with a population of a little over one million people. He sold them all over the world and throughout the Eastern States. He was able to compete.

The people involved in that business have done a lot of work and have absorbed much of the costs, in the main without any Government help. They have done exceedingly well. Vegetable production in the south-west of this State has been a wonderful success story and has been interesting to watch.

The Government knows what an open, generous nature I have. I congratulate the Government on the horticultural research station to be established in the Manjimup area. I wish there were more matters about which I could congratulate the Government, but there are not. In the main I feel it is absolutely necessary to be critical. However, I am glad that I am able to find one little crumb to throw the Government's way.

I am pleased also to see that, in the Manjimup area, gladioli are being grown for sale in the Eastern States. It is not so long ago that virtually all gladioli were brought here from other parts of Australia. I am pleased to see that we are reversing the situation. I only wish that the same applied to our wildflowers. We have been very sluggish in getting the marketing of wildflowers off the ground. I am sad to say that the natural market for Western Australian flowers will be stolen from us by South Africa and Israel.

Woodchips is a new industry. It has become a large part of the forestry activities. It has allowed for the opportunity, for the first time in 100 years, for the marketing of a product which, in the timber industry, has previously gone to waste. It always broke my heart to go to the Pemberton area and other areas and to see huge bonfires of really good timber being burnt as waste. It is good to see that some use is being made of that product.

The dairying industry has altered, to some extent. I would not dare to speak too much about that industry with Mr Bell present. He has spent a lifetime in that industry. However, there are still political problems in the industry, despite the changes.

A number of industries have changed in their nature. Timber is one of those. The export of timber has almost disappeared. Indeed the whole usage of timber has altered. I spoke to a man the other day who was using pine in the building of a house. Anyone using pine a few years ago would have been thought of as mad. However, today, it is now treated for borers. That gentleman was highly delighted that he was able to use it. It can be easily nailed with the new pneumatic nailing machine. The only

jarrah that is used still, by law, is the timber in roofs. It is considered that pine is not strong enough. However, by necessity, in a short time laminated pine and steel trusses will be used, but hardwoods are still used at present.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Is that right?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Hardwoods have to be used by law. However, with the modern methods, laminated pine will be used shortly.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: What about oregon?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Oregon is a little expensive for anybody to use for that sort of thing nowadays.

Hon. John Williams: There is jarrah in the roof here.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I have no doubt there is, but some of the timber in this Chamber which everybody is told is jarrah is New South Wales cedar. I am quite positive it is New South Wales cedar because I do not believe that jarrah can be carved in the same way as this. New South Wales cedar is absolutely magnificent carving timber. Nevertheless, I guess it sounds good to say it is all jarrah.

Hon. John Williams: It is jarrah in the ceiling.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: In the ceiling it no doubt is jarrah.

An industry which has increased considerably in the south-west is tourism. It has increased as a direct result of the absolute revolution in road construction as well as increased interest. Western Australia has been fortunate in its last two Commissioners of Main Roads, Digby Leach and Don Aitken. With the amount of money spent on roads and the intelligent application of funds over the years the roads in our area have changed quite dramatically, as have all transport arrangements. The deregulation of rail and road was instituted by Cyril Rushton and is being carried on to some extent. That has contributed a great deal to an increase in tourism.

Thirty years ago most tourist activities in the south-west centred around holidaymakers who went from Bridgetown and Boyup Brook to the coast to spend some weeks over the Christmas school holidays. Dad could catch some fish, mum could catch some rest, and the kids could catch some sun. However, wine production and the opening of new caves in Augusta and the like have led to a dramatic increase in the tourist industry.

While speaking of tourism, I would like to have another word or two about our old friend, Brett Goodridge. I was absolutely staggered the other day to see that he had again brought up the honey business. This honey wrangle is rather odd. I brought up the matter of the honey in this House in a speech I made last year. At that time the Press was so enamoured of Brian Burke that nobody took a blind bit of notice. I thought it was pretty scandalous. About a month later some reporter got a byline and made quite a name for himself by reporting the honey fracas in the newspaper. The article did not explain or give any credit to the fact that I brought up the matter a month before. I take a very dim view of that. I think that normally when someone pinches a quotation—

Hon. D. K. Dans: You should speak to the editor about it.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: No, I should speak to the reporter about it.

If I were to quote a guy I should give him credit for his quote. I take it that everybody knows about this honey. The Western Australian Tourism Commission bought the honey to market and make a profit. Brett Goodridge put in a report to Brian Burke, engaged that Price Waterhouse crowd, and got about six fellows the sack. The Tourism Commission was blasted over its \$27 000 fiasco which we paid for, yet Brett Goodridge recently said, "This is beyond a joke." For mistakes far less heinous than this, he got fellows the sack. Brett Goodridge, meanwhile, merrily goes on with his job. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Surely Mr Goodridge should have been sacked.

I attended a show in Bunbury at which the regional tourist officer was introduced. This chap spoke at it. The lack of enthusiastic response to his speech was absolutely deadening. Such is the man's ways of reacting that he walked away without a murmur. The purport of his remarks was that in conjunction with Brian Burke he had invented tourism. He suggested that what they were doing was absolutely incredibly marvellous. He gave a list of what had been spent, how much had been saved and so forth.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: Like Mr Dans did the other night.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, like that political statement Mr Dans made the other day.

Hon. D. K. Dans: What kind of statements do you make in Parliament, Mr MacKinnon?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: When a Minister makes a ministerial statement it is a political statement, but it explains political matters of some import. It is not a Press report trying to glorify some guy who has yet to prove himself. The only thing Brett Goodridge had done was make an absolute bungle about buying honey.

Hon. D. K. Dans: All the honey is sold.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: There you are; it is all sold.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It sold at a \$27 000 loss. Mr Brett Goodridge stood up in front of the people at Bunbury and never had the decency to say that the first Minister to take tourism out of a little one-office, one-man operation, and make it a ministerial job was David Brand. He never had the decency to say that the most prestigious award in this State or, indeed, in Australia, for tourism is the David Brand award. It all boils down to people's natures. One fellow I take off my hat to is Ron Davies. I mention Ron because he took over from me as Minister for Health in 1971.

Hon. D. K. Dans: So you have a kind of affinity with him?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: At least he has a gentlemanly streak in him. When we went to Bunbury and opened the hospital with which I had a lot to do, he very decently said, "Graham MacKinnon is the person who originated this." He asked me to stand with him. I stood with him as he opened the hospital. You can imagine how I felt. I could have wished him further up the creek, but he gave credit where credit was due.

One the other hand, this upstart, this honey king, spoke for far too long in an attempt to convince everybody that he, in conjunction with Brian Burke, had invented tourism. He never even had the decency to say that David Brand was the man who had started tourism on its way and that the most prestigious award for tourism in this State is the David Brand award. I think that was in very bad taste indeed. Brian Burke also spoke that day. I then came to the conclusion that he was a most articulate fellow. He spoke very well indeed, but even he could not rescue the operation. Everyone knows that I was Minister for Tourism for about three or four years. Therefore, as I stood there people came up to me and commented on the matter one after the other.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Were they commenting on how articulate Brian Burke was?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: No, they were commenting on how dreadful Brett Goodridge was. In fairness, I must say that a number of them commented that Brian Burke was articulate. He may lack a bit of the ability to put himself over as a sincere guy, but that cannot be helped. He has very good Press secretaries and with Jerry Maher leading the band, he has a few Press boys that are on his side too.

Hon. D. K. Dans: You will be up before the AJA shortly.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If I had anything to do with the AJA I would have had Jerry Maher up before me because I think he is the most biased reporter it has been my misfortune to come across for a while.

Hon. D. K. Dans: We have a very impartial Press and you know that.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, we have. That is why I am upset about it. If it were left to Jerry, he would have had Burke canonised by now.

The fellow in this article should be given the cane. Some men from the Tourism Commission have been put out to pasture because they did as succeeding Governments had asked them. They did their jobs to the best of their ability. This man has performed to the worst of anyone's ability. He is called the honey man now because he made a bungle over the honey business and cannot sell it.

Hon. Garry Kelly: It's a sticky business.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is a very sticky business indeed, and I am glad that Mr Kelly raised this matter. I hope that he will explain that he made this interjection about Mr Goodridge. I am glad that *Hansard* will record that interjection by Mr Kelly implying that Mr Goodridge is engaged in sticky business. I would not have had the temerity to say such a thing.

I have mentioned industries that have changed dramatically; and tourism has changed also, for a host of reasons. One of the problems is that to date we have had a fairly short tourist season. We tend to get people visiting during the summer period while the winter period is not at all popular.

Hon. D. K. Dans: That has changed now and people are going there all through the year.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Funnily enough, Mr Dans, tourism in the south-west is increasing. Between 1954 and 1965 for that area, I was commissioner of scouts, which is the top uniformed organiser. In that position the com-

missioner gets all the honour if he has good staff who do their jobs well. It is rather like being a Minister.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I have heard about scout masters.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I was not a scout master. We ran a series of camps through May, June, July, and August into September until the date of the Royal Show. We ran those camps on a monthly basis for about five years, and only once, in 1964, was it necessary to close the camp because we had a record flood. With appropriate advertising and development it is possible to attract those who like beach fishing and such activities to the area; and I think the season could be extended.

One thing that must be done with regard to tourism in this State is to open up more areas for casual camping. When travelling around the coast—and you Mr Deputy President would be well aware of this—in the magnificent coastal areas between Esperance and Albany, one can go fishing from the rocks or beaches throughout the winter if one is careful, and yet everywhere, even as far north as Mandurah, the first signs to be seen around these bays indicate that camping is forbidden and no trespassing is allowed.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Those are regulations made by the local authorities; and I sympathise with their attitude because they have problems with litter.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I too have sympathy. During the period I was Minister for Tourism I was a signal failure in this regard because I was not able to open up these areas, mainly because some people leave too much rubbish when camping. I believe the appropriate way to handle this problem is to be extremely severe on the people caught leaving rubbish or misusing toilet facilities. Every other country allows camping in these types of areas. The tents utilised in other countries are legion and I know that you, Mr Deputy President, have been to New Zealand and noted how much camping, walking, and casual holiday activity takes place in that country.

However, in this State wherever one walks one is faced with the forbidding and formidable sign, "Campers will be Prosecuted". If campers are caught they are prosecuted. The problem arises if people wish to fish from the beach or the rocks in the evening; and at 9 or 10 p.m. they are supposed to start looking for an authorised camping site. In fact, many of them sleep in or underneath their vehicles or

put up a canvas. It should be made possible for them to legally camp in these areas. Perhaps somebody one day will find a suitable method whereby we can allow people to travel around the country and be easily able to camp so that they will regard it as an hospitable place. If any rubbish is left it can be buried, and bins should also be provided. I know that many people are careless with regard to beer bottles and cans, but the litter problem is improving and the education programme against littering Australia is having some effect.

Hon. Garry Kelly interjected.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I do not wish to enter into a cross-Chamber discussion on how to overcome the litter problem. I am suggesting that the south-west in this State could have a greatly extended holiday period if the situation were handled with care.

I have referred to some things which have changed dramatically; for example, the electoral boundaries and the fact that I have never fought two consecutive elections with the same boundaries. The electoral system is constantly changing and developing and, if I read the signs correctly, it is probably heading for more changes in the near future. Of course, in parliamentary circles the near future can be anything from five years to a decade.

Parliament House has changed dramatically. I am thinking about some of the more dramatic changes and, to exemplify them, I refer to an event in 1957 when the Russians put the first Sputnik into the skies, which was watched by the staff and members of Parliament from a galvanised iron balustrading at approximately the level of these benches, just behind the corridor where the members' bar is now situated. The staff were housed in a galvanised iron shed. In those days Parliament House included this room, the front corridor facing Harvest Terrace, and the other building. The proper front facing the Arch was not in existence. That was when the abomination of the Barracks Arch was left in place; and it has been a blot on the face of the landscape ever since. It was regarded as a victory for the conservationists, but anyone with any brains can see that it was a damned disgrace.

Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I voted for that.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The member should be ashamed of himself. We can all be lilywhite, because we did not get a vote on this.

Parliament House has not just changed with regard to its structure. It is a constantly changing institution in its own right. I suppose the

person who has had a more deleterious effect on this place than anyone I can remember is Hon. Peter Dowding. Some members have had a beneficial effect on Parliament. I can think of a number of members who have done so. However, with his exuberant enthusiasm when he was on the Opposition side, in my opinion Hon. Peter Dowding has had the most deleterious effect. He probably thinks he has helped to streamline the place, but he has not.

Hon. Joe Berinson has had a good and honest effect because he brought with him some Federal ideas which he learned during his stay in Canberra.

I do not think that has been a bad thing. Perhaps the President has been a little influenced because he has tended to use the Canberra rules and precepts far more than the Erskine May principles which we used before his day. Nevertheless, the House has changed and I must admit that I attribute much of that change to the fact that our electoral system is now based on open franchise, exactly the same as is the Legislative Assembly. We are elected on the same day, on the same sort of issues and on the same roll. Personally, I think the end result is that we are competing with the Legislative Assembly members for the same type of work. We know that some members in close seats are doing the same sort of work that an Assembly member does. Whatever the arguments, one can refer to them all—and I do not wish members to quote my speech back to me—there are different methods of electing members to obviate that competition. I believe that is a matter which must be addressed by everyone in this House who has a regard for the Legislative Council and wants to see it continue and prosper. It must be elected with some variation, and I think that a mistake in 1963 or 1965 when we rewrote the rules. It was a mistake we did not appreciate when we changed from a property franchise to an adult franchise.

Mr Dowding is shaking his head, but he has been in the divorce courts too long and gets caught up in the emotional trauma of things. I am not arguing that property franchise is better; I am arguing that it was different and we want a franchise that is different from that in the Assembly. If we stick to the same franchise, with elections on the same day and on the same issues, in the long run we may finish up with the Houses being so similar that this Chamber will become, by default, an extension of the Legislative Assembly. I think that would be a great pity. Mr Dowding probably thinks it would be a good thing. I have already told

members what my opinion of Mr Dowding's influence on this House has been. He has had a deleterious effect in the extreme: If he does not believe that, I do. I think there is room for quite serious thought about one or two of the matters I have mentioned.

I have said that road transport has dramatically changed throughout the province and has brought the city much closer to the country and the country much closer to the city. I am not sure that it has brought any greater understanding between country people and city people or whether it has eased the lot of the country people. I have always argued that provided he has enough to live on, a young family man in the city is \$2 000 or \$3 000 better off a year than is his counterpart in the country. His young children can attend educational facilities much more easily; they can visit the Museum, the Art Gallery, the Royal Show, the boat show, and they have better shopping facilities. One cannot take notice of the standard prices reported from time to time. One must look at what an intelligent shopper can do with opportunity shopping at sales and the like. A young man with a young family in the country needs not only a job which will give him a contented lifestyle, but it has to give him \$2 000 to \$3 000 more a year to compensate for the advantages that a city resident has. There are also compensating advantages for people who like country life, but I am talking about material things.

I now refer to Bunbury which is the centre I have used in my political life. I had had a home there since 1951. Over the years preceding Governments—because except for a hiccup between 1971 and 1974, they have all been Liberal Governments—have successfully created regional centres in the country and of those centres Bunbury is the most successfully established.

When I first came to Parliament in 1956, it was not regarded as a regional centre. People argued about Collie, Manjimup, Bunbury, and occasionally mentioned Busselton or even Harvey as being places to have a meeting or conference. In the succeeding years Bunbury has become accepted as the regional centre of the area.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: By some people.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Well, by everybody who gives the matter objective thought. I can understand an enthusiast like Hon. A. A. Lewis arguing for his Lower Central Province but, leaving him aside, I refer to everyone else.

Most of the companies have established their branch offices in Bunbury, most banks have bigger branch offices in Bunbury, and most of the wholesalers are represented there, with many people coming to Bunbury from the south-west to do business when a few years ago they would have done it in Perth.

The Labor Party cashed in on that in the election of 1983 with the establishment of the South West Development Authority. That authority did not make any difference to the nature of Bunbury as a regional centre that was already established. The Labor Party cashed in on it as an excellent piece of PR and it is going ahead there as rapidly as it can.

The theme of my remarks is that a tremendous number of political problems which stirred the excitement of everybody at the time have disappeared into the limbo of things forgotten. Even the housing problems are not as pressing as they once were and all sorts of problems that seemed insoluble at the time have now been resolved. Some do remain and the obvious reason for their remaining is that they are impossible to resolve. We are faced with new problems as time goes on and some of them are inventions of the mind.

One matter that I consider to be an invention is the problem of our Australian Constitution. Everyone goes on about it as though it were an archaic piece of writing invented by a lot of dodderly idiots who did not know what the world would develop into. I suggest that with only one or two minor man-made exceptions—one being the external affairs powers which by commonsense arrangement the Federal Government could resolve by being realistic—the Constitution is quite a satisfactory working document. I think the most difficult area in the Constitution is the management of the sea close to the coast where there are State rights. We have to bear in mind that we were not a nation at the time. We were a separate group of colonies which came together in a federation. We are federally minded; we have a federal system.

Hon. D. K. Dans: That was an accident of our forefathers—the way they mucked the sea up.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We are on a different par from South Africa.

Hon. D. K. Dans: They followed a lot of the American Constitution, and that was one of the things which has been admitted.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, it is very much like the American Constitution.

The ocean is a very difficult thing to manage, yet with all its problems, with the three-mile State limit, the nine-mile national zone, and the two hundred-mile fishing limit, the States and the Commonwealth by talking together have managed to devise laws and methods of management which have been quite satisfactory. The Navy has been able to supervise, and its surveillance has been as good as our limited resources can manage. The State has performed certain duties, such as licensing and patrolling. Discussions back and forth have been quite satisfactory. In short, as a means of discussion between the Federal and State counterparts, given just a modicum of goodwill, our Constitution has worked quite satisfactorily.

I repeat that probably the most difficult area is the area of the ocean and the laws applicable to it, yet this practice has worked exceedingly well. I tend to disagree a little with Mr Pandal and think perhaps that there are insufficient problems basically in the Constitution of this country to warrant a continuation of the conferences. Perhaps it is a case of sour grapes on my part, though nowadays I do not attend. I went to several and they were very interesting and jolly good fun. I met some extremely interesting people. One of the most interesting experiences involved Vince Gair. It added to the load that Mr Whitlam had to carry and I suppose it helped the Australian people to decide what to do with that Government. I attended the conference which was also attended by Vince Gair. I have never seen Whitlam give such a masterly performance. He was a quite masterful and brilliant speaker. He is also a tall, imposing man, of course; but every time he was about to say something Vince Gair would shift from the front of his seat, reach over and take a glass of water and everyone would turn to watch him with absolutely bated breath because Vince Gair had never been known to let water pass his lips, at least for a number of years, or so it was reported. He put the glass to his lips as I am doing now and then got Whitlam to stop speaking and of course lose his thread of thought. I might be exaggerating a little.

Hon. Peter Dowding: It is not dissimilar to others; trying to lose their thread, I mean.

Hon. A. A. Lewis: It might remind Mr Whitlam of the time he threw a glass of water over Paul Hasluck in a tantrum.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Politics isn't the same these days.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I really wonder whether the Australian Constitution is such a dreadfully useless document as to warrant all the work that has been going into it.

Hon. Garry Kelly: It is not unusual that such a document might need change now and again.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I still maintain with the minimum number of changes we have made to it it is working a jolly sight better than most of its critics will give it credit for. That is the point I am trying to make.

Hon. N. F. Moore: Hear, hear!

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is working better than most of the theorists will give it credit for. When I was Minister I had fairly close dealings with the Federal Government in the areas of health, customs, fisheries and education, bearing in mind that I was Minister for Education during the Whitlam years. He was shuffling so much money across at us during the period 1970 to 1975 that we had to employ two men especially to keep track of the loose change he sent across.

Hon. Graham Edwards: He didn't spend another penny on education for the next nine years.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr Edwards might find out one day that with all its generosity the Federal Government's expenditure never topped 10 per cent over the total spectrum of education. A great fuss was made about it because the money was spent on one or two esoteric sorts of areas which attracted attention. However, spending on education did not top 10 per cent of the total. That is how much Federal money affected the issue. We had to employ two men; their names were Fitzpatrick and Quinn. Fitzpatrick was the father of the footballer. He and Quinn were very nice fellows. They were employed to keep track of the money.

Despite all that, our officers were able to talk to one another within the framework of the Constitution. Negotiations did not break down because of the Constitution. Breakdowns occurred because of attempts to inflict a point of view unnecessarily severe on the States and not because of the Constitution. The Constitution did not lack the ability to cope with the situation. It should be put on record that our Constitution is not as bad as it is made out to be.

I return to the subject of fisheries. I do not think anything is more complicated than the control and management of State and Federal waters.

A member spoke the other day about unemployment. I really think the current trend to speak in terms of the number of jobs created must be encouraged. I know it is not easy. I remember that when Mr O'Connor was Minister for Police he tried to institute the idea of accidents per kilometre travelled to get away from the number of accidents in motorcars, because there might be 250 this year and next year many more miles might be driven and there may be 252 accidents. It might be a very good record. The same thing applies to unemployment figures.

One of the problems facing people in Australia today is that jobs can be created or one can give notice of the creation of jobs in a town, a State, or a district and before one can blink there may be an influx of people from another State. When I was Minister for Tourism we set up an office in Wellington, New Zealand, with the idea of running trips from New Zealand and up to Singapore—to involve foreign travel for the obvious reasons, duty free shopping. On their return journey the people could visit friends and relatives in Perth. There are 15 000 New Zealanders in the metropolitan area of Perth alone. They heard jobs were available, so they came here. Mr Dans could quite easily announce a project tomorrow in the hope of soaking up another 2 000 unemployed Western Australians and then discover a week later that 2 500 extra people have come over from the Eastern States.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Mr MacKinnon, despite that point, unemployment in Western Australia has fallen from 10.7 per cent, when you blokes gave up the ghost, to 7.7 per cent.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Very true too.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The obvious answer to that is the yawn emitted by Mr Lockyer. I am not arguing about that. I am pointing out the desire and the need to state the figures in jobs created. It could well be that the unemployment level has purely and simply been fixed by many Western Australians going to the Gold Coast because they thought it would be nice to live there.

I remember seeing Sir Bruce Small at the age of 78 climb up onto a table such as the one *Hansard* reporters work at and making a speech, telling us that the unemployment rate in the Gold Coast in Queensland was the highest in Australia, which was a great feather in Queensland's cap because it meant that the unemployed from anywhere in Australia came straight to the Gold Coast because the Gold

Coast was the best place in Australia in which to live. I thought that comment was Irish, but nevertheless, it makes the point I am trying to make, that a lot of our figures are being upset by the sheer mobility of the run-of-the-mill people of Australia. They will go where the jobs are.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Is your problem aided by my telling you that employment over the last 12 months increased in this State by 4.3 per cent which is greater than the national average?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: They are the sorts of figures that should be quoted. Mind you, it would improve even more—

Hon. D. K. Dans: You can quote them.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: —if we could adopt the suggestion put forward by Mr Masters and allow for negotiated wages for young people.

I only wish to discuss a couple of matters further. Members are aware that I was interested today to pick up a newspaper with the headline, "Fluoride must go, says CSIRO expert." Members of the Press have gone home. I realise they have had a hard day. However, one wonders about them at times. If one reads the article one can see that the headline could just as easily read, "Fluoride must stay, says a majority of experts". The article states that every expert except one agrees that fluoride must stay. The only expert to disagree is this fellow from the CSIRO.

Hon. Mark Nevill: He is an expert in wind generating machines.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am eternally grateful to Hon. Mark Nevill because that is the pattern. This guy is an expert in wind generation activities, yet, he has won for himself headlines like this. The Commissioner for Health and all other sorts of experts who have studied the matter in great detail say that fluoride must stay. I wonder why the Press cannot, now and again, get its act together. We have fought this battle over many years. Mr Hutchinson tried and failed. One of the most momentous features of that attempt was that a fellow by the name of James in the Legislative Assembly took out his dentures, clacked them at Mr Hutchinson and said, "You will not help me with your fluoride." He had to be ejected from the Legislative Assembly by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

That sort of headline causes serious concern for a number of people. A young fellow from one of the outlying areas of Bunbury came to

see me a week ago. He was concerned about the article. I pointed out to him that the article was not true and that a number of other experts had agreed that fluoride was necessary.

The article talks about the effects of fluoride causing genetic defects. Places in India have, for centuries, been injecting water which has a high level of fluoride. The water supply at Carnarvon has three times the necessary level. These stories worry many people. I think it is a pity that they are raised. Incidentally, I sincerely hope that members of this Chamber, in the interests of the children of this State, resist any proposition put to them to remove fluoride from our water system.

Hon. Garry Kelly: Did you read the bit about the toothpaste?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I did; that is a bigger nonsense. With the help of the Parliament of this State, I was successful in fluoridating the water system of this State. I was told at that time that it would take too long for me to see the benefits and the reduction in dental work which would lead to a surplus of dentists. That was not true. I have seen the fluoride in the water system have a tremendous benefit, except in Bunbury and Busselton, on the teeth of the people of this State. It was customary in times gone by for fathers to give their daughters a set of false teeth for their birthday. It was common for most children in high school to have false teeth. That is not true now. Dentists are now plentiful because of fluoride. I wish that some paper would come out tomorrow with the headline that fluoride must stay because most experts agree that it should.

There is one problem that I believe will be serious for the people of Australia and I am quite serious about this matter. I refer to the sort of problem that is exemplified by the silly dispute that took place in Bunbury last week. Two unions were involved in the dispute, the Australian Workers Union and the Maritime Workers Union. This matter went before all the proper authorities. On 15 August the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission directed that the port authority should, without delay, comply with the award provisions by ensuring that its employees were members of the AWU. There was no dispute about pay or conditions. This was a demarcation dispute. Any of us who belong to unions know that this matter came down to the fact, to a large extent, of how much the union secretary is paid. When I was a union secretary, they were paid on the number of people who were members of their unions. That has probably

changed now, but it is still the secretary's job to keep the figures up. Because of that, eight ships were held up. That is not the worst of it.

A matter that got me by the throat was the strike which prevented the simulcast from the Sydney Opera House the other night. There were times, during the Whitlam era, when many people in this country ran perilously close to civil disobedience of a major order.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Like the farmers.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I believe the sort of behaviour by the unions is now heading that way. I agree with Mr Dowding that the farmers are having problems. They have had taken away from them their right to sell their sheep and export their products.

Members have heard me say before that the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission should be abandoned. Mr Dans has said what a great organisation it is. If he believes that, why does every union that dislikes what it says promptly turn its back on it. That should be made contempt of court. I will read from an article written by a Mr J. Willinge dated 20 August. It is a public statement which states—

The position is that until the Maritime Workers' Union interfered, some six months ago, the maintenance workers who attend to mooring and unmooring of vessels were members of the Australian Workers's Union.

On 18th July the WA Industrial Relations Commission dismissed the claim made by the MWU for coverage of mooring and unmooring.

On 15th August the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission clearly directed that the Port Authority should without delay comply with the award provision by ensuring that its employees are members of the AWU.

The statement continues—

These two decisions have been flouted by the Maritime Workers' Union and the workers involved in the dispute.

In other words, they turned their backs entirely on the courts set up for their protection and said, "We will not take any notice of the law of the land. We will not take any notice of the Government of the day. We will not take any notice of the judges or the courts. We will be a law unto ourselves." If that is not the highroad to civil war, members opposite must tell me

what is. They should read a few history books if they do not think that that is the highroad to real trouble.

Mr Willinge's statement continues—

It is now up to the State Government to show who is in charge—The Union or the The Elected Government.

It certainly is. If one day a Government takes the high hand, as has been done in so many countries around the world, we will have only ourselves to blame because we did not act. We took political sides for politically expedient reasons and sometime or other we will face the grave danger of joining that never-ending stream of countries which to some extent have become totalitarian or military-based. Quite seriously, I fear that because I have seen all the conflict that I want to see in my lifetime. It would be silly to say that I do not relish this sort of verbal conflict in which we argue with one another and put forward ideas. Even if we laugh at each other publicly we go home and perhaps as we go to sleep we may acknowledge that a person had a point that we will think about. I relish this sort of conflict, but I do not relish the sort of conflict that leads to my putting myself at risk. Much less do I relish the thought that anyone near and dear to me might be at risk—that includes everyone in this room. The statement continues—

On 12th March, 1985 the Maritime Workers Union lodged a claim for a new award with the W.A. Industrial Relations Commission for the work of mooring and unmooring and shifting of vessels at the port of Bunbury.

This action was taken without any prior discussions with the Port Authority; neither were there any disputes in existence between the Port Authority and the 16 maintenance men involved who were members of the Australian Workers Union.

Shortly thereafter the maintenance men resigned from the Australian Workers Union and joined the Maritime Workers Union.

They did so against all the rules and the decisions of the court. The statement continues—

In accordance with existing instructions from the State Government the Port Authority's interests were placed in the hands of the Senior Officer of the State Government's Office of Industrial Relations.

The Port Authority stated from the beginning of this action that:—

(a) It would abide by the decision of the Industrial Relations Commission

Of course, it should; so should everyone else. To continue—

(b) That irrespective of the outcome there would be no retrenchment of workers involved in the dispute

The case was heard on 28th and 29th May and 10th of June 1985 and judgement was given on 18th July dismissing the application by the Maritime Workers Union thus leaving the coverage of mooring and unmooring of ships with the Australian Workers Union.

Hon. Peter Dowding: What are you reading from?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am reading from a statement by the Chairman of the Bunbury Port Authority. It continues—

Although the Maritime Workers Union instigated the Commission's hearing it now refuses to accept the commission's order and has called for a State wide strike in protest at the decision which went against them.

I must express my gratitude to my fellow board members, management and in particular to the Wharf Superintendent, his assistants and our Tradesmen who despite considerable provocation and unwarranted strike actions during the past four months made every effort to restore the peaceful industrial relationship which had existed for 75 years and keep the port operative.

It is a matter of great concern to us all that this relationship has taken such an adverse turn through causes beyond and outside our control and I sincerely hope that port business will soon return to normal.

I have read out a statement made some time ago showing that people have flagrantly flouted the law.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Could I have a copy of that?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Certainly. I am quite sure that if the farmers who were mentioned a minute ago took some action with regard to the abattoir trouble that is going on right now, if they walked in and took over the job and started handling the matter themselves in a manner contrary to law, they would be castigated from one end of the country to the

other. On behalf of all the people in the country areas whom I have represented for so many years I ask the simple question: Why are not these fellows castigated by the Minister in charge of industrial relations? He is no longer associated with the divorce courts. He is associated with the industrial courts.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Have they rejoined the AWU?

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I will tell the Minister what has happened. I quote from statement No. 3 of Mr Willinge, the Chairman of the Bunbury Port Authority. It reads—

Further to my statements (No. 1) of 21st July and (No. 2) of 15th August, 1985 the decision of Mr Commissioner Coleman in the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was handed down in favour of the Australian Workers' Union on 15th August, 1985.

As stated on various occasions the Port Authority was determined to abide by this decision and the one handed down by the WA Industrial Relations Commission on 18th July 1985.

The maintenance workers decided not to join the A.W.U. and a further stoppage of mooring and unmooring was experienced from Monday 19th August until Saturday 24th August affecting 8 vessels.

Those workers broke the law and affected eight vessels. The Minister, whose court has been flouted, has not castigated them on any occasion. I bet he would castigate anyone else who broke the law. The statement continues—

At the request of the Port Authority the Minister for Transport, Mr Julian Grill and the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Dowding, intervened and meetings were held in Bunbury on 22nd and 23rd August with the 2 Ministers, the AWU, MWU, TLC, The Office of Industrial Relations, Government Industrial Advisor, the maintenance workers and the Port Authority during which the following agreement was finalised:—

Members can see that I could have answered Mr Dowding's question today better than he did. To continue—

1. The workers agree to renew their membership of the AWU.

Thus, the answer to Mr Dowding's question a moment ago is, "Yes." To continue—

2. The Bunbury Port Authority will not issue any dismissal notices to these workers as a result of action to date.

In other words, the workers are not to be blamed in any way at all. They are not to be punished in any shape or form for flagrantly breaking the law and acting in contempt of the court.

The third point is funny, but I want members to be serious and not laugh. It reads—

3. To improve worker management relations The Bunbury Port Authority will be asked to arrange regular liaison meetings with up to three elected members of the workforce.

The worker-management relations are set out in the award and in a court order. The realities have been upset by a recalcitrant union flagrantly disobeying all the awards and rules and court injunctions. To continue—

4. The AWU is to have a presence with these elected members at liaison committee meetings and in particular when any award matters are raised.

Any of us who have had any experience at all knows that all this is window dressing. It is just guff to keep the Ministers in good shape. The statement continues—

5. The Bunbury Port Authority will consider all issues including award matters raised by the workforce at liaison committee meetings.

I do not know why the Port Authority is to consider those. They are handed down by the courts. It does not have to consider them all; it has only to note them. They are orders of the court and should be obeyed. The statement continues—

The maintenance workers returned to work on Saturday 24 August at 8 a.m.

There still remain some matters to be attended to, but with mutual goodwill and understanding these should be resolved.

That is not meant to be a joke. It is put in the statement quite seriously and is meant to be followed. To continue—

It is now my sincere wish that a full and total return will be made to the previous harmonious relationship and that confidence in our reliability as a Port will be restored not only in our district but also with our overseas customers.

Perhaps the Minister for Industrial Relations would also like a copy of that statement.

Hon. Peter Dowding: Yes.

Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: In case anybody is of a different opinion, I put it on record that we are not dealing with a curmudgeon. John Willinge is a very well-respected, extremely well-liked citizen of Bunbury. I have known him since he came to Bunbury many years ago, and he is a good family man with deep understanding and compassion. I do not think anyone would have doubts about his ability to handle a situation such as this without any difficulty whatsoever were the matter dealt with in a reasonable way. Nobody could be more upset about the sort of difficulty confronting the Bunbury port than John Willinge. It must be causing him sleepless nights and a great deal of worry.

I cited that example which is close to home in Bunbury so far as I am concerned, and I want to use it as an example of what I believe to be a real sickness in the body politic in our Australian community. A simulcast of the opera shown on television recently was stopped in the middle of the glorious singing because some guys wanted to park their motor cars in a particular area as they could not carry their instruments for any distance. What are we coming to? This man demanded prime time on ABC television to stand up in his "soup and fish" and tell the Australian community why these men must have a place to park their motor cars. If we want to go to the opera we cannot park our motor cars even if we pay \$50 a ticket. I loved the part where the commentator said that the only place one can park one's car is in Los Angeles, and that city does not have an opera house. Nowhere else in the world provides a parking area for opera goers. I have been to shows in most major cities in Canada and the USA and no provision is made for parking cars near the theatre. It is necessary to park the car some distance away and go by bus or taxi to the theatre. I have even been to shows when it has been snowing and it has not been possible to park my car close to the theatre.

These blokes stopped a show while thousands upon thousands of people were watching it—people who would never have the opportunity of going to the Sydney Opera House to hear the performance. They were listening to the opera under the best possible circumstances available today with modern electronics, they were enjoying the glorious voices, and some upstart turned the key on them.

I suggest that there are people in Australia who will take the law into their own hands if this situation continues. What is sauce for the

goose is sauce for the gander; and many people seeing this type of stupid, idiotic, arrogant behaviour, this abuse of position, going unchecked and unremarked upon, will make jolly sure some action is taken. I am certain that those of us who sit around and see these things happening and do nothing about them will live to rue the day. I sincerely hope that when it happens those involved will think back and recall that their consciences are not clear on this matter because they had the opportunity to speak and perhaps do something about the problem.

The person with the best opportunity to take action is Hon. Peter Dowding, the Minister for Industrial Relations. If he expects the ordinary law-abiding citizens of this country to continue to abide by the law he must make sure that those who flagrantly abuse the courts set up for their protection are brought to book. I sincerely hope the time will come when he takes that action.

I join with other members who were very pleased to have seen the Governor, Professor Gordon Reid, open this session of Parliament; and I congratulate him on the performance of his office in the State of Western Australia. However, I raise one small niggly matter. All our Governors, including Professor Gordon Reid, have within their power the ability to adopt a uniform which sets them apart from others. To date those uniforms have been military. The only time I have seen Professor Reid wearing some form of uniform has been at functions held at the university. I wish that we had some method of setting the Governor apart on ceremonial occasions, if only for the sake of young people who feel that someone in this august position should be set apart by some form of uniform. Failing that, perhaps someone can persuade the Governor to wear his academic robes to signify him as a special person on ceremonial occasions. He has done a magnificent job and he should be set apart in some way. I recall that Sir Paul Hasluck adopted a special uniform for himself when he filled the job of Governor General with great distinction.

Finally, this is the last time I will speak in an Address-in-Reply debate. I thank members for listening to my ramblings and my few comments. To say that I have enjoyed my term in Parliament would be the understatement of the century; I have revelled in it, I have loved it. If I was born for anything at all it was to come to this place. I came to Parliament of my own free will and volition, having set my mind to do so.

I have occupied the side of politics that I decided after careful examination I should occupy; and in my pursuit I have been successful at least in attaining offices. Whether I have been successful in fulfilling those offices, history alone will decide. I hope that history will

be kind to me when I am dead and gone. Members have been kind to me, and I thank them.

Several members: Hear! Hear!

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. Mark Nevill.

House adjourned at 8.58 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Victoria Park

8. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that, as a result of traffic accidents at the corner of Berwick and McMillan Streets in Victoria Park, a Mrs Brookes at 86 McMillan Street has had no fewer than nine cars burst through her front fence?
- (2) Is he aware that the Perth City Council has suggested she build a masonry planter box, which would cost \$1 000, as a safety barrier?
- (3) Should a private citizen be made to bear the cost of turning her home into a bunker in order to preserve her safety?
- (4) Would the Minister consider having his department bear the cost of this project, given that main roads—such as Berwick Street is—are a responsibility of his department?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) In the last 17 months, 12 accidents have been reported at this intersection. The details available to the Main Roads Department do not identify that any vehicles entered Mrs Brookes' property. It is understood, however, that this has been the case on a number of occasions.
- (2) It is understood the Perth City Council investigated the provision of a guardrail, but does not consider this an appropriate solution in this situation. In this circumstance it is also understood that other owners have provided boundary protection to their property. It is believed that council made a suggestion along these lines to Mrs Brookes.
- (3) and (4) Both these streets are under the control of the Perth City Council and the Main Roads Department is therefore not involved, except in so far as the council may request technical advice from the department.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Victoria Park

14. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of approaches by the Kent Street High School P & C Association to the Main Roads Department for traffic lights at the Berwick-Kent Streets intersection in Victoria Park?
- (2) If so, are lights being considered?
- (3) If not, why?
- (4) If "Yes" to (2) will provision please be made for a "Walk" phase to further provide a safe crossing to students and allay growing fears of parents?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department has been approached in regard to this intersection by the member for Victoria Park, Hon. R. Davies, MLA.
- (2) and (3) A proposal to channelise the intersection in preparation for future traffic control signals has been forwarded to the Perth City Council for concurrence and the preparation of an estimate. The Main Roads Department is waiting for a response from council. Both roads are under the control of the Perth City Council.
- (4) It is unlikely that any justification for a "Walk" phase will be met at this stage.

18. *Postponed.*

ROADS: MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

Day Labour Staff

19. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In which towns does the Main Roads Department employ day labour staff?
- (2) How many employees are located in each of the towns referred to in (1) above?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) As at 31 July 1985 the numbers of day labour employees operating from headquarters in the following towns were—

Perth	542
Albany	120
Bunbury	109
Carnarvon	82
Geraldton	121
Kalgoorlie	121
Derby	138
Moora	64
Narrogin	89
Northam	72
Port Hedland	105
	—
	1 563

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

South Perth

20. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Has consideration been given to installing traffic lights at the corner of South Terrace and Coode Street in South Perth?

(2) If so, what has been the result?

(3) If not, will he consider such a request?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) Intersection safety could be improved by traffic signals. The department programmed the provision of traffic signals in 1980-81 but did not undertake installation because of objections from the South Perth City Council.

(2) and (3) The South Perth City Council traffic management scheme will come up for appraisal in September 1985. No doubt this intersection will be reviewed then by council.

ENERGY

Fuel Franchise Levy: Exemptions

22. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

What categories of consumers are exempted from the State's fuel franchise levy?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Those who hold a current certificate under the Business Franchise (Petroleum Products) Licensing Regulations for offroad diesel use.

ENERGY

Fuel Franchise Levy: Opposition

28. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Is it correct that the Minister wrote to every local authority councillor in the state outlining the Government's opposition to the abolition of the State fuel levy?

(2) If so, what was the cost of this exercise?

(3) Did the Minister have the authority and concurrence of the Acting Commissioner of Main Roads to include with his letter a Minute which appeared to be a private communication between the officer and his Minister?

(4) If not, why was the Minute made public?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Approximate cost of printing and postage was \$1 000.

(3) The Acting Commissioner of Main Roads was fully aware of the contents of my letter.

(4) Not applicable.

29. *Postponed.*

ROAD

Nanutarra-Wittenoom: Sealing

35. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Have any decisions been made with respect to the future sealing of the Nanutarra-Wittenoom Road?

(2) If so, what will be the alignment?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) No sealing beyond the Paraburdoo turnoff is planned in the near future.

(2) The alignment for 28 kilometres north of the Paraburdoo turnoff is planned to approximately follow the existing road. Beyond that point alternative alignments are being investigated.

BILL OF RIGHTS

Senate: One-vote-one-value

36. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General:

Since it is now almost a year since he made a submission to the Commonwealth on behalf of the State of Western Australia on the contents of the Bill of Rights, will he advise:

- (a) whether his submission has been discussed by State Cabinet;
- (b) whether his submission has been discussed by the Labor Caucus;
- (c) whether he has received any response to his submission from Senator Gareth Evans or Mr Lionel Bowen?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (a) to (c) The Bill prepared by Senator Evans last year is not being proceeded with.

A replacement draft Bill has been provided by Hon. Lionel Bowen, and is in significantly different terms. My discussions with Mr Bowen on this Bill have so far been limited to seeking clarification of its terms and intended effect.

37. *Postponed.*

ENERGY

Gas Pipeline: Maylands

38. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

What will be the projected megapascals pressure intended for the transmission of gas in the Dampier-Perth-Caversham-East Perth high pressure lateral pipeline?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

The East Perth gas lateral pipeline is designed for operation up to seven megapascals. The actual operating pressure will depend upon the system gas demand and will be in the range of 2 to 7 megapascals.

HERITAGE

Arthur's Head: Proposals

39. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) What proposals, if any, are current for the development of Arthur's Head as an historical site?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the significance of Arthur's Head as the original defence location for the Colony?
- (3) Will the Minister ensure that Arthur's Head receives due recognition in this regard?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The restoration of the Arthur Head area is a project jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Programme in Western Australia. The sum of \$1.5 million will be made available to the City of Fremantle as project manager to undertake the work.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) I have asked the Western Australia Council of the Australian Bicentennial Authority to discuss the matter with the project manager.

GAMBLING: LOTTERIES

Instant Lottery: Distributions

40. Hon. TOM KNIGHT, to the Minister for Employment and Training representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In connection with the requests in respect of SILF (Sports Instant Lottery Fund) funding, over the past two years:

- (1) How much was granted to—
 - (a) country clubs and associations;
 - (b) metropolitan clubs and associations; and
 - (c) State sports associations, e.g.: WA Sports Federation, etc?
- (2) How much was contributed in each case by—
 - (a) country clubs and associations;

- (b) metropolitan clubs and associations; and
- (c) State sports associations?
- (3) What were the State sports associations contributing per dollar in comparison to country clubs?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) As the information sought will take time to compile, a written response will be forwarded to the member in the near future.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Parole

- 20. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney General:

Is it correct that convicted killer, Ronald Joseph Dodd, is to be released on parole on 6 September after serving only eight years of a life sentence?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I do not have the precise date with me, but I can confirm that Mr Dodd will be released on parole in the first week of September. It may help the House to have some general background on the situation in respect of this prisoner, and to the extent that I am able to recall the detail, I will provide it at this point.

Mr Dodd was convicted on a charge of murder. By virtue of the provisions of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act, his position in respect of parole was required to be considered by the Parole Board after he had served five years' imprisonment. He was not released at that time, but his position has been regularly reviewed since. In fact, by the time of his anticipated release in September he will have served 9 years, less two months, and that is well towards the upper range of the period of imprisonment served by prisoners convicted of the relevant offence.

Mr Dodd's release is founded on an unqualified recommendation by the Parole Board and follows their repeated consideration of his position since the completion of the first five years of his term. His parole period has been designated as three years and

he is required, in terms of the approval for parole, to spend at least the first six months residing with the Jigalong Community, which has agreed to accept a role in his reintegration into the community.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Conviction

- 21. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney General:

Is it true that Dodd was convicted for wilful murder in October 1976 while at that time being on parole?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

Mr Dodd's conviction was for murder and not wilful murder. Had he been convicted of wilful murder, his release on parole could not have been considered until 10 years after his sentence, rather than the five-year period to which I have referred. It is true that he was on parole at the time that he committed his offence and that would, of course, have been one consideration to be taken up by the Parole Board. It is, however, only one consideration among many and there is nothing in the fact that his offence was committed while on parole to suggest that any such similar offence, or, indeed, any offence at all, should be anticipated on his parole now, nine years later.

It is not unnatural that questions should be raised whenever prisoners are released on parole after committing offences as serious as the one that is involved here. But in the end, unless we are to decide that a substantial group in the community should never be released, then a decision has to be made. Our system is based on close examination and the best advice available, and, towards the end of the process, on a recommendation by the Parole Board. Those recommendations are not accepted automatically; but in general the experience has been that the parole system serves a useful role in the community and on the whole has proved to be effective.

Since the point of the present question is directed to the fact that the offence was committed while Dodd was on

parole, let me just revert to this question of eventual release by pointing out that his offence was committed, if I remember correctly, in October 1976 and he would in any event have been released by having reached the end of his earlier sentence in February 1978. None of us can play with fate so well as to suggest, "Well, this or that would not have happened after another 15 months had intervened". I do not think real life is like that. The truth is that on the offence for which he was serving a sentence at the time of parole, he was going to be released within about 15 months anyway, so that the aspect of his having been on parole at the time, while certainly a factor to be taken into consideration, is not an overriding nor an overwhelming one.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Conviction

22. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Attorney General:

Did I hear the Attorney General correctly? I understood him to say that Dodd was not convicted of wilful murder.

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I think there may be some confusion here. The Leader of the Opposition may well be referring to the fact that at the original trial Dodd was convicted of wilful murder, but that is not the offence for which he was serving his present sentence. That conviction was replaced by a conviction for murder, and it was on that that he was serving his sentence. It is on that conviction that he is currently in prison.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: BUNBURY

Dispute: Discussions

23. Hon. V. J. FERRY to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Did the Minister participate in discussions in Bunbury last week in regard to the strike at the Bunbury Port Authority?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Yes.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: BUNBURY

Dispute: Discussions

24. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Could the Minister advise—

- (1) Who were the parties to those discussions?
- (2) What was the outcome of those discussions?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) I was invited to Bunbury to have discussions with a number of the parties involved in the dispute. Present at the discussions were a number of union officials and workers. I also had discussions with the Bunbury Port Authority. There was a fair bit of coming and going of people, but they were certainly the major participants in the discussions that were held. I point out that I do not normally see the role of Minister as one of flying into a particular place in order to act like a sort of industrial relations superman. However, there were particular reasons why we were invited to Bunbury on this occasion, and in those circumstances I was certainly happy to go there.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: BUNBURY

Dispute: Commission Decision

25. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

In view of the Minister's visit to Bunbury, why did he not immediately support and uphold the determination of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission of 15 August that the AWU would service the maintenance staff at Bunbury?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Hon. Vic Ferry has never impressed me as being a man who understood much about industrial relations, and his question indicates quite clearly that he has no idea—

Several members interjected.

Hon. P. G. Pandal: He has got you on the hop.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Tell us; come on.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: —because what flows from his question—

Hon. P. G. Pendal: Is embarrassment to you.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: Not at all. What flows from his question is a question back to him in regard to what he means by "uphold".

Hon. G. E. Masters: Support.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: It is not for me to sit in some sort of *ex cathedra* capacity. I sought to obtain a return to work and a clearing of the Port of Bunbury and, as the honourable member would know if he was in Bunbury on Saturday morning, as a result of the work that Julian Grill, the relevant Minister, and myself did in Bunbury—

Hon. A. A. Lewis: I heard there was an altercation between you and Grill; is that right?

Hon. G. E. Masters: Who won?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. PETER DOWDING: As a result of that action, Julian Grill and I were able to achieve a return to work; and on Saturday morning the work recommenced on the wharf and the backlog of ships was attended to. That was a very major achievement and I was pleased to participate in it. I was very grateful for the contribution that Julian Grill made—indeed, the contributions made by all participants—and the support of the Bunbury Port Authority for the work that we did. While clearly there is still some work to be done to try to ensure that the problems which had arisen in the area are addressed, we made some substantial gains in the course of those negotiations.

(2) Are they being considered for transfer to Canning Vale, a more medium security prison, or are they doomed to stay in Fremantle Prison for the remainder of their sentences?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

(1) and (2) The Mickelbergs, as I recall it, are both still held in Fremantle Prison. To describe their conditions as draconian is really only putting into dramatic language the circumstances of all prisoners in Fremantle Prison. There is no special detriment to the Mickelbergs in being in Fremantle Prison, and if the argument is that Fremantle Prison is too harsh an environment for its prisoners then I would commend the member to present that view to organisations such as Citizens Against Crime, which believe that conditions in most of our other prisons are too soft. Between the two they will no doubt come to some sort of amicable balance.

As for the reasons for the Mickelbergs being in Fremantle Prison, this is not a matter in which I would involve myself. It is a matter of the regular administration of the prison system, and that takes into account many factors, not only the nature of offences but also, for example, the length of the sentence being served. We have a well established review system and neither the prison administration nor myself have any interest in having prisoners held in maximum security conditions for longer than proper judgment suggests that they should be so held. The Mickelbergs' placement will be subject to review from time to time in the same way as applies to all prisoners, and the same process will be used. I do not propose to intrude into that system.

PRISONERS: MICKELBERG BROTHERS

Conditions

26. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Minister for Prisons:

(1) Could the Minister inform the House why the Mickelberg brothers, who are not in prison for wilful murder, are being held in draconian conditions at Fremantle Prison?

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Conviction

27. Hon. J. M. BERINSON (Attorney General):

Mr President, I would like to correct a statement I made a few minutes ago about the nature of Mr Dodd's offence. Having been pressed several times as to whether his offence was

wilful murder or murder, I really went further than the facts at my disposal in suggesting that he may originally have been convicted of wilful murder but had that conviction replaced by a conviction for murder. I have since called for the file and, frankly, it is very large and I am unable to go through it, but for the moment the only thing I can say with any certainty is that Mr Dodd was charged with wilful murder but convicted of murder.

Beyond that, I withdraw any other statement that I made. Should my further reading of the record indicate the need for some elaboration, I will do so on a future occasion.

CRIME: CONVICTION

Retrial

28. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Attorney General:

If the Government considered that a conviction by a court warranted a retrial, would that decision be made by the court, or is it possible for the Government to make that decision?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

That is a hypothetical question to which I think I should not respond.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Conviction

29. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

I preface my remarks by admitting my own inability to recall the exact facts of the Dodd case, although I was Attorney General at the time. Is it not a fact that Dodd was convicted by a jury of wilful murder? He was found guilty of the wilful murder of one Brown who had been an associate of his and whom he had in fact "paid back" by murdering him? Is it not a fact that he was convicted of wilful murder and sentenced by Mr Justice Wallace to death; and would the Attorney General be good enough to explain how he is able to assert that Dodd was convicted simply of the lesser crime of murder?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

Hon. Ian Medcalf's memory may be better than mine. I would not dispute that or compete with him. I indicated by an earlier answer that I had an impression in my mind that there may have been some earlier conviction on this matter. Only this very minute am I able to clarify the matter with some precision. I note from a report of the Parole Board dated 3 September 1982 the following comment—

On 4 February 1977, Dodd was convicted of the wilful murder of David James Brown and sentenced to suffer death in the manner prescribed by law. He appealed against his conviction. His appeal was allowed by the Court of Criminal Appeal and after retrial, Dodd was convicted on 17 June 1977 of the murder of Brown.

I think that clarifies the position.

WAGES AND SALARIES: DISCOUNTING

Support

30. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Does he support Mr Wran's statement giving full support to the Federal Government's moves to discount wage increases for the depreciation of the dollar?
- (2) Will the Minister recommend to the Government that it should seek leave to intervene before the State Industrial Relations Commission to argue against any wage increase applications that do not discount as a result of the fall in the dollar?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) I certainly support my Premier's position on the issue which he has made public. The question of the extent to which the State will intervene or participate in the national case and the extent to which it will put a position different from that of the Commonwealth or the other States is still under consideration.

BILL OF RIGHTS

Draft: Differences

31. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General:

I refer the Attorney General to the answer he gave today to my question on notice 36 dealing with the Commonwealth's consultations with the States on a proposed Bill of Rights. In what way is the replacement draft Bill being circulated by Mr Bowen different from Senator Evans' proposed Bill?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I am not certain of the degree of confidentiality which is meant to apply to Mr Bowen's draft Bill. It may well be that it has been generally released. However, I am not aware of that. I think the best I can do in my current state of uncertainty on that point is to refer the member to Mr Bowen's description of the draft Bill, namely, that it is not intended to bind the States. That is the significant difference in the approach which the present Attorney General is taking as compared to the approach taken by Senator Evans.

BILL OF RIGHTS

State Powers

32. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Attorney General:

As the original Bill, as I understand it, was going to give power to the Commonwealth to override State legislation and reportedly take power from the State Parliaments and place it in the hands of the Federal Court judges, can I take it, in view of the Attorney General's comments, that the criticisms that have been made previously are no longer valid?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

Both the earlier Bill and the current ones are documents of some complexity. I am really not equipped to deal without notice with any detailed questions relating to them.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Parole

33. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

I thank the Attorney General for clearing up the question of conviction.

- (1) When was the first report of the Parole Board made—that is, the report that was made approximately five years after conviction?
- (2) What was the recommendation of the Parole Board in that report at that time?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The first statutory report of the Board was dated 3 September 1982. It did not recommend release at that stage but indicated that the position of this prisoner would be the subject of a future review.

PRISONER: RONALD JOSEPH DODD

Parole

34. Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Attorney General:

At what stage did the Parole Board first make a recommendation for the release of Dodd?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

Given the bulk of the file, I think it would be risky on my part to be confident that answers to questions of this nature could be extracted quickly enough. I ask that this sort of question be placed on notice.

RACING AND TROTTING

Meetings: Public Holidays

35. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Is it correct that the Minister refused an application by the Shire of West Pilbara for public holidays to be granted for the Wittenoom and Onslow race meetings?
- (2) If so, why was the decision made.
- (3) Will the Minister reconsider his decision and allow the holiday for the Onslow meeting which, I understand, is being held next Monday?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) For three years while I was the member for North Province and in Opposition, I made regular submissions to the then Government, which consisted of some members opposite, to introduce a system which would allow local authorities to move a public holiday from a date which had been fixed by Statute or proclamation to a date which suited that district. Hon. Norman Moore may know that his party consistently refused to do anything positive about it over a considerable period.

However, we were very pleased that, so soon after coming into office, Hon. Des Dans, who was the Minister with that responsibility, arranged for a statutory amendment to the Public and Bank Holidays Act to provide that shires and local authorities would be able to have proclaimed a day which was suitable to them. The only administrative requirement which was imposed was that the application should be submitted in time for the gazettal to occur—at least three weeks before the due date.

Members opposite who supported that piece of legislation will know that it was supported for a very good reason; that is, that all of the relevant interested groups which would be affected by such a decision would have at least three weeks prior public warning of any date for a holiday. I have ensured that all local authorities were informed of the procedure to be followed in order to facilitate that application under the legislation. With respect to the Shire of West Pilbara the Hon. Norman Moore well knows the situation because he rang my secretary and inquired.

Hon. N. F. Moore: I rang you, actually, but you weren't there.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: The point I am making is that the honourable member rang my office and was told the answer.

Regrettably, the Shire of West Pilbara submitted its application too late. The application was actually received in respect of the first date sought for a holiday, namely 26 August. It was received on 7 August, which al-

lowed insufficient time for the requirements of the Act to be complied with—that is, the three-week prior gazettal of the date. In fact, as the honourable member will know, the submission has to go to the Governor-in-Executive-Council and then be gazetted. The reality is that an application received even 21 or 22 days before the due date would have enormous difficulty in being processed in time to have a gazettal in compliance with the Act.

I suppose it is not surprising, but it is certainly not to Mr Moore's credit, that he and his parliamentary colleagues have peddled it about that there was some sort of reluctance on my part to further the application in order to accommodate the Shire of West Pilbara. That, of course, is absolute nonsense, because I am proudly one of the people who is responsible for nagging to get this legislation introduced. I have already granted public holidays to suit the requests of the shires which were able to send in the requests in time. The other shires were able to put in their requests with enough time. I think I am correct in saying that Halls Creek, Wyndham-East Kimberley, Port Hedland, Roebourne, and the East Pilbara Shires submitted requests. I very much regret for the sake of the people involved that the application by the shire in question was not submitted in time for compliance with the statutory requirement.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRES

Introduction

36. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

My question concerns issues raised by my private member's Bill, the Community Justice Centres (Pilot Project) Bill. What action, if any, has the Attorney or his department taken to consider this matter and the possible introduction of these centres in Western Australia?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I am following up the general question of such centres seriously and have obtained further reports both on the

New South Wales experience and on the report of a committee established in Victoria to consider a somewhat similar scheme. The Victorians have recommended a rather different pattern of approach from that which has been in operation on a trial basis in New South Wales. So far as I am aware, Victoria has not yet established any centres on the basis of its report. However, my understanding is that it does intend to establish a trial of its own.

The current position in this State is that I would regard it as preferable to be able to take advantage of the experience of both the New South Wales and Victorian systems before taking our proposals further. I am not at a stage where I could make any firm recommendation to the Government. It is quite clear that nothing along these lines will emerge this year. The best that I think can be said is that the general area of community mediation centres which has now been the subject of our study for 15 or 18 months remains a matter of serious interest. I will pursue it as further inquiries suggest.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRES

Studies

37. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

In view of the fact that the community justice centres scheme in New South Wales has been operating for more than three years and a pilot project has begun in New Zealand, are these two studies not enough for the Government at least to make a decision without our having to wait for every State in Australia to check such schemes out before we do anything?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

These schemes are of serious interest to us, but I would not regard the service they offer as urgently required. They do not have the sort of priority that Mr Wells would like to give them. Incidentally, they are not cheap; they cost \$100 000 a trial unit annually. In that context, there is something to be said for approaching the matter with as much care as we are giving it. In the

end, I probably would differ from Mr Wells on the degree of urgency that should be attached to a development of this kind. I regard the development as one that should be pursued in terms of further evaluation. I would not regard it as urgent.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRES

Report

38. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

Is the Victorian report on community justice centres that the Attorney has received confidential? Is it possible to get a copy?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I got a copy of the Victorian report by writing to the Victorian Publications Office. No doubt Mr Wells could do the same.

WAGES AND SALARIES: DISCOUNTING

Intervention

39. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

My question follows an earlier question dealing with discounts on wage increases. Would the Minister agree that failure to intervene before industrial commissions on moves to discount wage increases for the depreciation of the dollar would clearly demonstrate that this State Government is really window-dressing and not genuine in stating its position, but rather showing further evidence of the dominance by militant unions?

THE PRESIDENT: Order! That question is out of order.

POLICE: FIREARMS

Crossbows: Regulations

40. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs

Is the decision of the Minister's department to place restrictions on the sale of crossbows being achieved by regulation? If so, on what date were the regulations tabled and under which Act?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

I think I have given the honourable member some previous detail about this. My recollection of it is that it is not being achieved by statutory or regulatory change, but by an interpretation of existing regulations. If it suits the honourable member I will get that information for him and let him know.

COMMISSIONERS FOR DECLARATIONS

Appointments: Moratorium

41. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General:

My question concerns the appointment of Commissioners for Declarations and the moratorium on the handling of the CD applications.

- (1) On what date will the department accept applications for these appointments?
- (2) Has the department caught up with the backlog of applications?
- (3) Are there any changes in the handling of appointments for Commissioners for Declarations? If so, what are they?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Again I have to rely on memory, but, subject to correction, I believe that the moratorium period ends on 1 September and applications will again be accepted from that date.
- (2) The backlog has been cleared.
- (3) There will be some difference in the treatment of applications in the future in that closer attention will be given to perceived additional requirements for Com-

missioners for Declarations in the particular areas from which the applications are drawn.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING: "BRIDGING THE GAP"

Extension

42. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Employment and Training:

With regard to the excellent youth employment training programme, "Bridging the Gap", which is operating at Scarborough in conjunction with the Government, Rotary Club, and local community, what plans are there for a similar operation in the Wanneroo area?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

Did I hear the honourable member giving the Government a commendation in that question when he referred to the excellent scheme? It is an excellent scheme and it has been working very efficiently both north and south of the river, with the support of relevant members of the Rotary Clubs.

I am not aware of any proposals for future job link schemes. At present the allocation of funds for these schemes has been fully utilised. I think it has been very well utilised but whether we are in a position to establish any further offices will depend in part on the outcome of discussions on the Budget.