

# Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 18 March 1992

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Michael Barnett) took the Chair at 11.00 am, and read prayers.

## PETITION - PERTH-ADELAIDE NATIONAL HIGHWAY, RED HILL SECTION

### *Urgent Construction Request*

**MR TROY** (Swan Hills) [11.04 am]: I present the following petition -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, request the urgent construction of the new Red Hill section of the Perth to Adelaide national highway in order to upgrade the existing road and improve general safety in the area.

At present the road down Red Hill, which forms part of Toodyay Road, is totally unsatisfactory and unsafe for the increasing volume and type of traffic now using it. Livestock haulage vehicles and trucks using the nearby regional rubbish disposal site are compounding the situation, which is expected to deteriorate even further with the impending relocation of Pioneer's Herne Hill quarry into that area.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 152 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 10.]

## PETITION - MARQUIS, ANN

### *Perjury Allegation and Gaol Threat Judicial Inquiry*

**MR C.J. BARNETT** (Cottesloe) [11.05 am]: This is one of the most extraordinary petitions I have come across in my short time in the Parliament. It reads -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

The petition of certain citizens respectfully requests:

An immediate independent open judicial inquiry into the circumstances that have led to the threatened gaoling for alleged perjury in the Family Court in the case of Mrs Ann Marquis.

In order to establish the true facts of the case, the impending gaoling could have a devastating effect on her family, particularly her elderly mother and two children.

The proceedings of the Family Court may be brought into great disrepute and undermine any confidence this community might have for it to determine settlements if Mrs Marquis is arrested, charged and threatened with gaol in the circumstances.

We question whether the Family Law Court is being used in a manner and for purposes which was never intended by the Act. Viz: Ex-parte orders and invasion of privacy in business dealings with third parties, sometimes merely to assist lawyers to cover exorbitant legal costs.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

This is a most serious case and the petition bears 221 signatures. I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 11.]

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AFFAIRS***Interim Report on Youth and the Law Tabling*

**MRS WATKINS (Wanneroo)** [11.06 am]: I present the Select Committee on Youth Affairs' interim discussion paper No 3 on youth and the law. I move -

That the interim report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

When embarking on the course of a Select Committee, members of Parliament are very conscious, particularly on subjects such as youth affairs, that one tends to focus on the negative aspects. One needs only to consider the terms of reference of our Select Committee to understand what I mean: Our task is to identify factors causing young people to be at risk, and to identify and examine existing programs and gaps within them.

I am well aware that when members read this discussion paper they may well be surprised and even shocked by the evidence within it; however, I indicate at the outset that the committee was conscious that much of the evidence provided to it has been untested and unsubstantiated. Nevertheless, given that 48 people provided evidence to us, we had to weigh up varying factors in deciding what to include in the discussion paper. It probably would have been far easier to leave out some of the shocking statements, which will probably be picked up by the Press. I cannot make it clear enough that this evidence contains unsubstantiated allegations, and that the reason the Select Committee is tabling this discussion paper is to provide an opportunity to test those allegations.

Members will recall that on the last two occasions that I have spoken in this place on this Select Committee it was to present discussion papers. We have received a great deal of feedback from those discussion papers, and that augurs well for a good report, which I hope will be produced by 4 June. The 48 individuals who provided evidence to the committee came from a wide range of Government and non-Government organisations. These included the Commissioner of Police, various police officers who work within community policing, youth groups, youth legal services, and others too numerous to mention. If members look at the discussion paper, they will see listed the issues contained within it. In many ways the events of the last two and a half months have meant that many issues contained in this discussion paper have already been raised. I commend the Minister for Police who last week requested a committee be formed to look at allegations of police harassment of juveniles. I will be asking the Minister for Police to give a copy of our discussion paper to that committee. We would welcome their input and would like them to examine those people who gave evidence on police harassment to our committee. I congratulate the Minister for Police.

One of the things the committee was asked to do by this Parliament was to look at the proposals put forward by the Rally for Justice. A section of the discussion paper has been dedicated to those proposals, which have been examined by a range of people including the Commissioner of Police, the Director of the Department for Community Services, the President of the Children's Court, judges from the District Court, and magistrates from the Children's Court as well as individuals from the Rally for Justice. The committee spent a considerable time going through those proposals. Although no recommendations as such have been made I hope that the people from the Rally for Justice and others in this State who have raised enormous concerns will come back to the committee to let us know whether they believe we have it right or not. We were also requested by this Parliament to look at a petition presented by the member for Perth at a special sitting on 5 February. I have an apology to make to the member for Perth. Prior to the petition's being introduced in this place the first draft of this discussion paper had already been presented to me by the research officer; this is about the seventh or eighth draft of the final discussion paper. I promise the member for Perth and other members that in the next process in the reporting period the committee will look at that petition which relates to recent legislation.

The committee has chosen within the discussion paper to focus on a range of issues in looking at the background of youth and the law and the extent of juvenile crime to the cause of offending. In doing so the committee looked at some very positive overseas models. I hasten to add that despite the fact that this committee has been meeting since November 1990 it has been far too busy to go overseas or to the Eastern States. The committee has relied very heavily on research that has come to it from those areas. I do not believe that

from now until June the committee will have that opportunity either. Other Select Committees may have had the opportunity to go overseas, this one certainly has not. That does not decry what the committee has achieved in this discussion paper because it has been researched extensively. As I mentioned, the committee has looked at the Rally for Justice proposals and the discussion paper contains an extensive section on police-youth relations. The committee has attempted to talk about the very positive things that happen with community policing. The trouble is that not enough police officers have the capacity to act as community policing officers, which is very sad. Those areas which have a strong focus on community policing have a marvellous relationship between young people and the police, but in other areas this does not happen. We need to focus on the positive aspects of community policing and to congratulate those police officers involved in it. We send a message that we need more community policing officers. We need to reinforce those positives within the community.

The committee focuses quite heavily on the Children's Court system and some excellent statistics have been produced. I thank the Department for Community Services, which the committee has driven mad during the last three months while trying to come to terms with the enormity of the task that it and the committee have. The department has been able to provide the committee with some very up to date statistics, some of which have not been put forward before but will give us something to work on and towards in the future. The discussion paper focuses on repeat and recidivist offenders. The alarming aspect is that although the number of children going before the courts has decreased the number of offences is increasing. I find that quite alarming. The other thing that bothers me terribly in the evidence given by the Department for Community Services is the large number of young people with 21-plus court appearances. I am also concerned about the statistics from the various remand and detention centres which tell us that the majority of young people going into those centres are neither attending school nor employed. A very small proportion are, but the majority have not been in employment or education for some time. We need to give some thought to that problem. It is very difficult as individual members of Parliament to get an absolute handle on this huge issue. The benefit we have had as members of a Select Committee is that we have spent the last 15 months living and breathing the issue and not saying that we have all the answers but at least that we understand the problems. I know all members of Parliament have busy schedules but I urge members to have a good look at the discussion papers the committee has produced because that would probably assist them in dealing with these issues in their electorates. The paper contains statistics and tables and an enormous volume of evidence.

I apologise to the Parliament because, as Chairman, I omitted to put a motion forward at the committee level to ensure the transcripts were tabled. I hope to rectify that when the committee presents its next discussion paper. I cannot say a lot more in requesting this discussion paper be printed, except to reinforce the fact that although the terms of reference for this committee were negative in their focus the committee has tried to focus upon the positive; it has not always been easy. I cannot emphasise enough that some alarming statements have been made in the discussion paper, but members must realise that a lot of what is contained in the discussion paper is unsubstantiated. When I come back to this place to present the committee's final report in June I should be able to tell this Chamber whether evidence given to the committee is true.

**MR STRICKLAND** (Scarborough) [11.18 am]: I support the chairman and second the motion that the third and very important discussion paper be printed. The chairman has reminded us that this is the third of four discussion papers which will be produced before the committee's 4 June deadline. The chairman has been diligent in her task in assisting the committee in its work to obtain the full picture. I also thank my colleagues on both sides of this Parliament for their sense of responsibility in the way this issue has been handled. It is a very emotive issue; it is easy to raise a variety of problems in this Parliament in an attempt to score points, as it were. However, it is important that members realise the seriousness of the problem and that a Select Committee is in place, each member of which is determined to understand the picture. Before we can successfully solve the problem we must know exactly what it is. It is generally appreciated that it is complex. The committee is now receiving feedback as a result of the first two discussion papers and some positive outcomes have eventuated from that. Members must take a very mature approach to some of these issues as

must the people in the departments who are charged with the responsibility of keeping us informed and of implementing policies. For example, truancy was mentioned in the education paper and the committee has brought to light the fact that truancy is a major problem.

The people writing departmental annual reports seem to want to tell us the good news without balancing it with the bad news and the failures. However, the point must be made to Ministers or members in this Parliament that we live in a real world in which successes and failures occur. Unless we identify and spell out the failures, we will not properly focus on them or solve them. If the committee is able to highlight some of the failures in the system, it will have achieved some important work. A little pain may be felt by the Ministers responsible for those departments. However, provided those issues are handled in a responsible manner, perhaps both sides of the House can start properly addressing them. The challenge is to find a balance in a range of issues. This discussion paper highlights the seriousness of problems such as over-reliance on arrests, remand, court appearances and detention, all of which increase the likelihood of reoffending. Insufficient attention is paid to the root causes of juvenile crime. A table is included in the paper which provides a breakdown of the spending directed towards juvenile crime.

People take an emotional approach to juvenile crime. I have had enough of it and I am frustrated by the lack of success in the system. One feels that one wants to lash out and solve these problems in a variety of ways. However, we all have a perspective on what works in our family situation; a range of measures work. In this area, very considered and objective analysis is required of what will achieve results. The paper spells out and reflects the strong perceptions held by large sections of the community which are perceived as the truth by the various groups in the community. In order to solve the problem we must recognise all the truths and all the perceptions. If we do not, we will be trying to communicate with people who are completely offside and do not want to listen to solutions or understand the problem. That is part of what we are trying to face up to.

In mainstream society, which members in this House reflect, values exist which have been inculcated in us by our families. We understand and use discipline in our homes. We have come to respect people and their property and I am sure we all have a degree of self-respect. These values have been put in place, in the main, by our parents, the school system and any religious involvement we may have had as we grew up. When we were sanctioned within our family some very important internal measures were in place which caused us to undergo some introspection. When we got into trouble as we grew up we changed our behaviour because we thought about it. The process of punishing under those rules, which applied to the vast majority of families, relied very much on the positive forces in the family situation.

Unfortunately today a growing number of families simply lack parenting skills. Some families are third generation welfare families. The support network for many of the extended families has fallen away. Three generations ago it was not untypical to have up to 70 extended family members including uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents available in times of crisis. One in six families is now a single parent family and many divorces occur. Many of those people do not have a family support mechanism. Each member of this House realises that stresses and strains are involved in raising a family. Two people can always do it better than one and two people with the support of an extended family seemed to manage really well in the past. We must face the fact that a problem exists in our society which underlies the increasing juvenile justice problem. However, not for one minute do I say that is an excuse for juvenile offending; quite the opposite. The knowledge of that simply provides an understanding of why the problem occurs. I believe that when offending occurs some form of punishment and rehabilitation must be imposed.

If I were asked to describe the problem in a sentence I would say that the resources are being concentrated in the wrong place. Considerable resources are devoted to the police chasing people who have committed sometimes very serious, and at other times quite minor, crimes. Resources are also devoted to the courts and to the Department for Community Services after offences have occurred. The system itself is escalating the problem; in fact, it is helping to perpetuate the difficulties being faced. Detention reform is a joke! Nothing is happening in that area. If 100 people are put into a detention centre they will come out in worse frames of mind. If the system is allowing the problem to build up, it must be acknowledged that the system is not working and must be improved. Debate continues on the effectiveness of the measures available to the court to deal with this problem.

The incidence of crime has increased. In 1980-81, 14 500 offences were committed; in 1985-86, 24 600 offences were committed; and, in 1990-91, 30 000 were committed. At the same time the population has remained stable and the juvenile population has hardly increased. That is a cause for concern. The vast majority of youths who commit crimes are charged with relatively minor offences and 64 per cent of youths appearing in courts are doing so for only the first or second time.

The word "recidivist" has been mentioned constantly. Defining what is a recidivist is a major problem. Is it a person who goes off the rails for a month and is facing five or more charges; or, is a recidivist a person who is consistently involved in breaking the law and serious crime? Members would agree that the latter is truly a recidivist. However, it is not easy with the statistics to pinpoint what is a recidivist. The many problems in defining a recidivist were pointed out to the Select Committee on Youth Affairs.

The solution to juvenile crime must ultimately involve a change in the way the Aboriginal situation is handled. In Western Australia Aboriginal people make up four per cent of the population. However, in the metropolitan area 17 per cent of cases involve Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people make up 15 per cent of the country population but they are involved in 60 per cent of the cases. One concern is that the Aboriginal population is recording an increase twice that of the State population. Unless something is done to address that, the problem will become worse.

Children involved in offending have been described by some people as feral. They move around, do not have homes and have not attended school for many years. It is really a structural community problem; those children lack structure in their lives and do not have any firm sets of values. Those members who have been involved in education or who have worked with youth will realise the importance of routines and consistency in raising or educating young people. Those structures are important prerequisites for children, but they do not exist for recidivists. Eighty-seven per cent of the children of compulsory school age who had appeared in court five times or more had not been at school for a year. Those are damning statistics. A deputy school principal told the committee that 30 per cent of the children in his area were considered to be at risk, that interaction between their peer groups was poor and verbal abuse and acts of aggression were common. Those children simply did not have the capacity to socialise. The majority of their parents acknowledged that they had lost control in directing their children and that there were inconsistent measures of discipline at home. In fact, those parents are crying out for help because they recognise the problem but do not have the skills to do anything positive about it.

The committee also examined several overseas models. A range of positive initiatives that we can learn from are available. However, the problems being experienced overseas are just the same as those in Western Australia. Most countries are realising that past approaches to solving these problems have been ineffective and they are embarking on directions in which detention is becoming the option of last resort.

Police-youth relations is a serious matter. Serious allegations were made to the committee by people who were aware that they could face serious penalties if they misled the committee in any way. The committee was told that it is police practice to constantly name check juveniles. One example the committee was given concerned a group which was approached by at least 10 different police officers on different occasions over a short time. At no time were these young people acting in a disruptive, abusive or criminal manner, yet they were name checked many times in the one night. The propensity of the police to arrest rather than summons was also outlined. At least 74 per cent of juveniles are arrested and only 24 per cent are summonsed. One reason for that was the difference in the paper work. Between 12 per cent and 25 per cent of children detained in security remand awaiting reports actually receive sentencing for detention. Reports must be prepared and children must be assisted, but many are serving time in detention centres on remand and detention does not eventuate when the details are examined by the magistrate. Many references are made in the newspaper to police attitudes. The committee is well aware of the need for police to have sufficient power to carry out their duties; they should be supported. However, the committee also recognises that there are problems with some police.

**MR DONOVAN (Morley) [11.40 am]:** I rise briefly to speak on this matter, not as a member of the Select Committee into Youth Affairs, but as one who supports the printing of

this report. The discussion paper rather than the report is one of the more substantive and significant documents of its kind before this Parliament at present. The committee should be congratulated for producing it and for the work it has put into it. It should also be recognised for the strong message it gives to this Parliament and should be read and understood.

Only a month ago, in spite of requests to delay the Crime (Serious and Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Bill pending the outcome of this discussion paper, this Parliament passed legislation that dramatically changed the way in which young serious offenders and particularly young repeat offenders would be dealt with. The juvenile justice rally's request for consideration of its views last year and the petitions that the member for Perth and I presented this year constituted one of the more powerful arguments for delaying that legislation. It is important to be aware at this time of the reasons those arguments were put then and what the committee says now. The legislation that was passed earlier this year was passed, at least in part, as a solution to a serious crime problem. The committee notes that, among all the causes of juvenile crime, not one is soluble by the means that we adopted at that special meeting. It cites family breakdown, poverty, unemployment, educational failure, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, and underlying psychological or psychiatric conditions as the causes. No-one would suggest - certainly no-one on the committee suggested - that any of those causes could be addressed by the Crime (Serious and Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Bill as a solution to the problem.

One significant cause of the problem noted by the committee - it is one to which I have begun to allude and will do so more frequently in this session - was wardship; that is, the worst offenders appear to be wards of the Department for Community Services. In other words, the State has a duty of care and responsibility for most of those offenders who will be affected by the legislation that we passed. I do not know how the Parliament, the Government or the department will reconcile satisfactorily with the public its failure to fulfil that duty of care.

I turn now to another part of that discussion paper and its significance to the legislation. Members will recall that the major trigger for that legislation was the number of deaths caused by police pursuits of juveniles in stolen vehicles. Table No 8 on page 46 of the discussion paper includes figures provided by the Police Department and that table indicates that, between January and October last year, there was a steady decline in the number of vehicles stolen and in the number of pursuits. That is hardly cause, one would have thought, for us to react in the way that we did in February. To be precise, 1 793 vehicles were stolen in January and in October, only four months before we passed that legislation, the figure had reduced to 1 343. The number of police pursuits in January totalled 21, with the highest number being recorded in March last year at 34, and in October last year there were only seven. It seems that we were already on the road to resolving the problem which we addressed in such a draconian way in February.

I want lastly to refer to another disturbing feature of this report and a point which was made repeatedly by all sides of this House during the debate on the passage of the Bill: As the causes of juvenile crime could not be addressed by imprisonment alone, there needed to be an improvement in our preventive work and in the level of funding and resourcing of community based programs that are successful rather than those that are not successful - and we had evidence of both of those programs. This discussion paper provides evidence from the Department for Community Services which indicates that, of its total budget outlays, 19.6 per cent is devoted to community based options and 37 per cent is devoted to incarcerative options. There is something wrong with that. Faced with that data and faced with the fact that the number of stolen vehicle offences and the number of police chases decreased last year, we went for an option that will be spectacularly unsuccessful and will do nothing for increasing the options that are shown to be more successful. These are not my figures but data included in the report.

As I said earlier, the committee should be congratulated for the work that it did on the discussion paper. More importantly, the message it gives to this Legislative Assembly should be clearly understood because it was argued strongly in this place that before the Parliament or the Government responded in the knee-jerk way it did with that draconian and nationally and internationally unacceptable legislation, we should listen to the people whom we charged last year with the task of providing us with this information. We had to wait only a month but we were not patient enough to wait. Our error in adopting the legislation

has been highlighted in the discussion paper. I support the wide distribution and printing of the discussion paper and the report.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 46.]

#### **BILLS (4) - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

1. Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Bill  
Bill introduced, on motion by Dr Gallop (Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform), and read a first time.
2. Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement Amendment Bill  
Bill introduced, on motion by Dr Constable, and read a first time.
3. Transfer of Land Amendment Bill
4. Unfair Trading Practices Bill  
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Cowan (Leader of the National Party), and read a first time.

#### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - THIRD DAY**

##### *Motion*

Debate resumed from 17 March .

**MR COWAN** (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [11.52 am]: After listening to the Governor's Speech I read it to gain a better understanding of the legislative program which the Government outlined for the coming session, as all Governments do, in that Speech. I also noted, with interest, the emphasis the Government placed on its legislative program based on the package prepared by the Premier and known as the WA Advantage. It is clear to me that one would gain the impression from reading the Governor's Speech that many of the proposals which the Government considers to be of priority and which it will address in its legislative package have already been addressed by this Parliament and rejected. In a number of areas the Government has clearly linked its legislative program to the WA Advantage package to revitalise the State. I will refer to a couple of the proposals which are contained in the Government's package and which it appears to want to place on the Notice Papers of this House and the other place in perpetuity. Most of us know something about the duck shooting and drink driving laws.

**Mr Pearce:** I know something about duck shooting! It will pass this time.

**Mr COWAN:** If it is passed by the Parliament - and that is for the two Houses to determine - I can assure the Minister for the Environment that the legislation will be repealed when the new Government takes its place.

**Mr Pearce:** I bet it is not.

**Mr COWAN:** That is a very unsafe bet and if the Minister would like to name his wager, of course outside this House, I will take him up.

**Mr Wiese:** Why do you allow parrots to be shot and not ducks?

**Mr COWAN:** I suggest to the member for Wagin that he does not give the Minister any ideas. If by some accident the Parliament should be prorogued between now and the next election and there is a need for another formal opening of the Parliament, I am quite sure that the Governor's Speech will contain a paragraph that will refer to legislation to ban the shooting of parrots! The Minister should not be encouraged.

**Mr Pearce:** People are not allowed to shoot parrots for sport.

**Mr COWAN:** No, not for sport.

This Parliament has dealt with the drink driving laws and it is time the Government gave up the idea of looking at those issues, in which it knows the Opposition parties have a difference of opinion, and trying to keep them on the agenda. I am not referring to the parties as the Liberal Party or National Party, but to individuals on this side of the House who have a right to exercise a conscience vote on issues they feel they should. In doing that they are

confronted by the Government attempting to exploit their individual decisions as supposedly representing some weakness in the Opposition parties in respect of the lack of coordination or, discipline, or things of that nature.

Mr Pearce: That is very unfair in respect of duck shooting. The only reason the Bill did not pass last time is that Hon Reg Davies was leant on so heavily by members of the Liberal Party to toe the line. He said that publicly.

Mr COWAN: I do not think the Minister for the Environment is in a position to talk about people being leant on to toe the line.

Mr Shave: He is!

Mr COWAN: I will rephrase that: The Minister for the Environment is very competent to talk about how one can lean on people and obviously his experience in the Caucus room may have taught him something; I do not know about his experience outside the party room.

It irritates me that the Government continually puts forward issues which have been dealt with by the Parliament. In all cases these issues have been rejected, otherwise they would not be brought forward again. It is time the Government proceeded with the business of governing rather than being diversionary. We have seen the Government employ diversionary tactics to take the focus of attention away from issues it should be addressing. The best example is the question of daylight saving. This Government has introduced daylight saving legislation on two occasions and it was rejected on each occasion. On the basis that a member in another place wanted to make a name for himself he thought he could obtain some publicity by reintroducing the Daylight Saving Bill. The Government jumped at that for the very reason I outlined: The desire to find something to divert the attention of the public from the more pressing issues that are the responsibility of this Government. As a result we had a trial period of daylight saving and now a referendum will be held on 4 April. The Government was prepared to jump on the bandwagon when an Independent in another place decided he would attract publicity if he were to introduce daylight saving legislation. In spite of the Government's commitment to daylight saving it has fallen into a very deep hole when it comes to the question of presenting a yes case to the very people it subjected to a trial period of daylight saving. That demonstrates very clearly the shallowness of the argument.

Mr Pearce: Did curtains get a big mention in the no case?

Mr COWAN: No, but had the Government run a campaign in favour of daylight saving, I am sure they would have. Notwithstanding the insult by the Leader of the House to the intellectual capabilities of those people who strongly object to daylight saving, I suggest that the only people who talk about curtains in this connection are smart alec journalists and those who cannot mount a case in favour of daylight saving but who rely upon denigrating the people with a genuine case against it.

Mr Pearce: We believed it appropriate for the industry bodies to put the yes case because they were the strongest proponents of daylight saving.

Mr COWAN: That is a cop-out.

Mr Pearce: It is not a cop-out; politicians usually get the first bite at these things and we thought we would give these people an opportunity. The industry bodies so strongly supported daylight saving that the Government decided to give them the opportunity to put the yes case.

Mr COWAN: I would believe that if evidence existed of negotiations between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Government as to who would prepare the yes case. An inquiry was made to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry about whether it was capable of organising a yes case, but I can assure members that there was no contact between the Government and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the question of who would prepare a yes case. The Government did not present a case and it learned that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry was interested in doing so. Having expressed that interest, the chamber will now be invited to proceed with it. The Government did not plan that the chamber mount this case on the basis that its members were the biggest proponents of daylight saving. It just happened.

I do not want to dwell on the Government's tactics in this place of diverting the attention of



Western Australian electors from some of the issues which should have been addressed. I want to talk about the WA Advantage package. I am the first to acknowledge that the WA Advantage package addresses those issues which should be occupying most of the Government's time. The package contains some absolute gems. I quote not from the package but from the Governor's Speech, which I understand contains extracts from the package -

The plan is based on the premise that the creation of wealth is the province of the private sector and that Government plays a crucial supportive role . . .

That is admirable. Not one member in this place, including the Independents, would disagree with that. In fact, we all applaud it. However, the package contains no additional statement indicating that this Government has lost hundreds of millions of dollars because it did not agree with that principle but thought it should be a major player in the development of business and projects which are the province of the private sector. If the Government wanted to pay homage to that edict from the Premier that the Government must and would be accountable and honest in this place, it should at least have been honest enough to acknowledge that in the past it did not adhere to that principle and that it deviated from it to a great extent at great cost to the taxpayers of Western Australia.

Some of the initiatives in the WA Advantage package, referred to in the Governor's speech, which will be addressed by the Government must be acknowledged as sensible; for example, the initiatives which will allow this State to compete for private sector investment, and the strategic State projects unit which will be established to ensure that projects of strategic importance are approved more quickly. Who could argue with that? However, I give the Government the following warning: A body called the Western Australian Development Corporation was established in this State some years ago to do precisely those things outlined as the objectives of this strategic State projects unit. When establishing that unit the Government must ensure that the previous failure of the Western Australian Development Corporation is not repeated. The WADC was established to attract investment to this State and to fast track proposed development projects. Unfortunately, some of the people involved decided that rather than encourage the private sector to invest, they would invest themselves and become the entrepreneurs. This State is dealing with the consequences of those investments now. The Government must make sure that the proposed strategic State projects unit does not go down the same path.

I refer now to proposed amendments to the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the Environmental Protection Act. I am sure all members in this place support those proposals in principle, although I reserve the right of the party to read the legislation before making a decision. The Government has stated that there will be no increase in any energy tariffs in the next financial year. I wonder whether anyone in this Chamber can tell me the last occasion on which the Government of the day increased energy tariffs in the year before an election.

Mr Pearce: We did it before the last election and the one before that.

Mr COWAN: No, the Government did not do that.

Mr Pearce: The Liberal Party did not increase them before the election and increased them by 30 per cent.

Mr COWAN: The Government managed to improve on that; it increased them at the same rate as the Consumer Price Index increase in the first two years but did not increase them in the year before the election. To clarify this issue for the Leader of the House, I indicate that electricity tariffs increased this year on 1 March for L1 category users. That is the only occasion I can recall on which any Government has increased tariffs in a pre-election year. In the instance to which I refer the Government offered a bonus to people who could utilise off-peak tariffs. Of course, a great number of businesses are in the L1 category.

Dr Gallop: Do you know how much money is coming into the economy as a result of that move? It is \$20 million.

Mr COWAN: God spare this State from the bean counters who produce all these theories which unfortunately some people in the Government are naive or gullible enough to adopt as policies for implementation. That has been one of our major problems.

Dr Gallop: You are missing the mark. You have totally missed the point and you are the only person I know who is opposed to this change.

Mr COWAN: I would like to introduce the Minister for Fuel and Energy to some of the people who are L1 tariff consumers and who do not have the opportunity to take their power in an off-peak period.

Dr Gallop: They have an opportunity to look at the way in which they utilise energy by providing funding through the Federal Government. In the 50 per cent energy audit, like an individual consumes in a household, they should take responsibility for looking at how they use their energy.

Mr COWAN: The fact remains that at the end of a month, 60 days or a quarter, however their account is structured, their charges will be higher.

Another of the State Energy Commission's gems is its security bond. A person in small business who has an account with the State Energy Commission is required to lodge a security deposit with the commission based on a percentage of his annual account. This involves holding the equivalent of the charge for a number of months for payment of the relevant account if a business fails. Given the failure rate of businesses today, most of which have been caused by this Government, the commission may regard that as a good business practice. However, I take offence, as do the businessmen involved, when I read in the WA Advantage package that their money is being re-injected into the business community. That is an insult to anybody's intelligence. It is saying, "We will not take this money from you any more," and then announcing in a policy document that that money will be re-injected into businesses; that is, the money normally paid to SECWA will go back to the business community. Business people find that approach offensive.

Dr Gallop: What is your policy on security deposits?

Mr COWAN: I would abolish them. In addition, I would not accompany that happening with a glossy document containing a remark that I was about to re-inject the money into the business sector.

Dr Gallop: We know what your policy is then.

Mr COWAN: It is exactly the same as the Minister's.

Dr Gallop: We are not abolishing security deposits. Good customers will get a reduction in their deposit.

Mr COWAN: I would abolish the system for good customers. I do not see it as serving any purpose.

Dr Gallop: It would place an unfair burden on the State Energy Commission.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Cross chamber interjections are out of order.

Mr COWAN: I turn now to this Government's initiatives. The State has a Budget of approximately \$5.5 billion compared with the Commonwealth's Budget of 10 to 12 times that amount. One must remember that the State's Budget is heavily dependent on Commonwealth grants. It is important that one looks not only at the WA Advantage package but also at the One Nation package presented by the Prime Minister in order to ascertain how the Government can address some of the issues that it needs to address if it wants Western Australia to lead this country out of recession. One would assume that that is what the WA Advantage package is about. In his One Nation package the Prime Minister got one thing right - namely, that this nation's transport system needs to be improved - and a couple of things wrong. This is a large nation where people travel enormous distances. Unless our transport industry is operating efficiently we will find it difficult to be competitive internationally. This is because we have little manufacturing base in this country. If we are to be export competitive, efficient transport will play a vital role in our competitiveness. Anyone who reads the One Nation package and looks at the allocation of funds for improving transport systems sees that Western Australia's share is abysmally small. About \$470 million will be available for improvements to rail services. I am sorry that the Minister for Transport is not here at the moment because she should be hanging her head in shame. Western Australia comprises one-third of this nation's area and contains at least 10 per cent of its population. Despite that, all the State secured from the One Nation package allocation for rail transport was five per cent of the total.

Mr Lewis: The Federal Government did not even know where the railway was to be built.

Mr COWAN: That is a distinct possibility. An amount of \$13 million has been allocated to improve the standard gauge railway line between Perth and Kalgoorlie. A comparable amount has been allocated to improve the Perth to Picton line. If in the proposal for a standard gauge link there is a suggestion that it be extended from Perth to Bunbury it is on the cards that that \$13 million will go absolutely nowhere. Where was the outcry from the State when it saw what its share of funding for transport from the One Nation package would be? What is the State Government's position on this matter?

About \$650 million has been allocated to road transport by the Federal Government in its One Nation package. Western Australia's share of that is a bare 10 per cent. Western Australia's population is about 10 per cent of the population of Australia. However, because WA comprises one-third of the area of Australia and its road transport system has such a huge area to cover, there should be a balance, and Western Australia should receive more than 10 per cent of that allocation.

What is the Government seeking for Western Australia? It should be seeking a fair and rightful share of Federal Government funding for this State. Absolute silence on the other side; not a word is being said! If ever this State is to get a fair and reasonable share of moneys allocated by the Federal Government it must break down the attitude that exists in the Eastern States that if one starts at Adelaide and draws a line across a map to the dividing range and then along the eastern side of the map until one reaches Brisbane and then stops that marks an area that the people in the Eastern States have decided is the only part of Australia that matters. That attitude seems to be reaffirmed constantly by politicians and bureaucrats. The worst thing is that people in Western Australia sit mute about that happening. Until we break down the view held in the other States, and in Canberra, that this State does not deserve to be given a fair and reasonable share of the wealth created by this nation we will continue to be disadvantaged. Rather than the Government presenting packages such as the WA Advantage it would be better for it to acknowledge that this State has great disadvantages to overcome and unless it overcomes them few advantages will be obtained for it.

If I could be a little more parochial and talk about issues which are of great importance to the electorate that I represent, I would have to spend the remaining two minutes of my time by talking about agriculture and the need for this State to continue to give support and recognition to the contribution that agriculture makes to the economy of this State. Last year the Premier was goaded into offering wheat growers a guaranteed minimum price. We are all aware that that package never had to be put into place because the price of wheat escalated well beyond the guarantee that was offered by the Premier. The consequence of that offer was that this State, unlike the Eastern States, managed to plant very close to its normal cropping program and, therefore, with a good season, with the exception of some areas in the eastern and north eastern wheatbelt, there was a reasonably good harvest in Western Australia. The economy of this State will benefit from the income from that five million tonnes of wheat and other grains, which will inject, at \$180 a tonne, roughly \$1.2 billion into the economy of this State.

Mr Graham: Seeing that the Government offered a guarantee of \$150 a tonne and you ended up getting \$180 a tonne, do we get the \$30 a tonne difference?

Mr COWAN: Why should the Government get it? That commitment should be continued. A commitment to agriculture must be given by this Government this financial year because it is just as important this year as it was last year.

MR OMODEI (Warren) [12.22 pm]: In making my contribution to the Address-in-Reply, I wish to discuss a number of issues in my electorate and to expose to the Parliament and to the people of Western Australia the duplicity of the Government, and particularly of the Minister for the Environment, in the listing by the Australian Heritage Commission of properties in the south west and in my electorate.

Mr Pearce: That is a bit rough. We have had the Australian Heritage Commission defer it. You played no role in that decision.

Mr OMODEI: I will get to that, and the Minister will not be very pleased with some of the things that I am about to say. Courtesy of the Editor of the *Warren-Blackwood Times*, today

I received a copy of a Press statement by the Australian Heritage Commission, dated 13 March. Members will be aware of the editor, Mr Zoran Panzich, who is usually right on the mark on issues in that area. Mr Panzich states in a facsimile message that the head of the Southern Heritage Action Group, Mr Ted Thompson, is not happy about the statement made by the AHC that it will withdraw or place on hold the listing of properties for the AHC. There are 330 properties in the southern forest region, of which 270 are in my electorate of Warren, which takes in the areas of Manjimup, Bridgetown, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Nannup, Augusta-Margaret River and Walpole. There are also properties outside that area in Denmark in the Stirling electorate and Boyup Brook in the Collie electorate. It is well known in Manjimup that the AHC has been seeking office space so that it can consult farmers on this issue. The Southern Heritage Action Group has called on the commission to abandon the proposed listing and to make fresh approaches to land holders. The same group and farmers within the area are suspicious of the motives of the AHC and have called for total abandonment of the proposals. The Chairman of the Australian Heritage Commission, Mrs Sonya Lyneham, has stated that the main reason for the regional assessment was to establish National Estate values and, of course, to look at private properties within the area.

Mr Pearce: That is not what she said.

Mr OMODEI: I will quote from the Press statement so that the Minister will understand. It states -

The Commission's Chairman Ms Sonya Lyneham said that unfortunately there had been profound misunderstanding of one aspect of the work - the inclusion of private property in the process.

She is saying that the Minister responsible for the Department of Conservation and Land Management was well aware of the proposal to list properties under the National Estate listing. Ms Lyneham states also that -

"The main reason for the regional assessment was to establish national estate values in order to underpin management policies and practices developed by CALM."

In this process, national estate values have also been identified on private land not subject to CALM management.

We now know that as of November last year, the Minister for the Environment was well and truly aware that CALM and the AHC were considering private property listing as well as the memorandum of understanding that had been worked on for some time. The Press release states also that -

Private land on which values have been identified will not be listed as part of the AHC-CALM agreement.

It could not be because there had not been extensive logging on that land. The Press release continues -

The Commission has decided to postpone listing indefinitely. Extensive consultation with owners, relevant state government agencies and other interested parties will be held to verify the values identified on private land, and to develop an understanding which protects both owners' rights and national estate values."

Why does the AHC state that it will continue to talk to interested parties, State Government authorities and land owners if it is postponing the listing indefinitely or abandoning it?

Mr Pearce: I asked the AHC to abandon it.

Mr OMODEI: The Minister for the Environment can interject as long as he likes but I intend later in my speech to show the people of this State and the Parliament exactly what the Minister has done. The Minister has been subverting the rights of farmers in the southern forest region and has been misrepresenting his position as Minister for the Environment. He has, as usual, been playing two ends against the middle. Every time the Minister for the Environment is caught out, he is like the kid who has been caught with his finger in the jam jar. The Minister has got that silly look on his face, and the people in the south west will show him where to put that finger when they find out what he has been up to.

During a visit to Albany in the last couple of weeks, the Premier stated that the AHC legislation was a product of a conservative Government. The AHC legislation was

established and the functions and powers of the AHC were set out in the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, No 57. The principal Act was amended by the Australian Heritage Commission Amendment Act 1976 and the Australian Heritage Commission Amendment Act 1990. Further changes to the Act occurred as a result of the review of the Commonwealth Government's role in the conservation of the National Estate. The Government announced on 18 November 1988 that it intended to make significant changes to the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975. During 1989-90 a Bill to amend the Act was introduced into the Federal Parliament, and lapsed because of the election. However, it was reintroduced into the House of Representatives and passed on 12 November 1990. The Australian Heritage Commission Amendment Act 1990 received Royal assent on 21 January 1991. That well and truly debunks the statement made by the Premier. I add that in the 15 years since the commission was created, the Commonwealth Government has well and truly extended its involvement in environmental issues, and - I believe this is the nub of the question - once again this Government is pandering to the environmental lobby. It does it by bringing the Australian Heritage Commission into play, because the Australian Heritage Commission does not have to take into account the economic impact of the listing of those properties on the National Estate. On the other hand, the Heritage Council of Western Australia must take into account the economic and social impact of any such listing. Therefore I believe the Australian Heritage Commission, hand in glove with this Minister for the Environment, has listed a number of properties in the south west without even consulting the people in that area.

Mr Pearce: Or me.

Mr OMODEI: There are 330 properties.

Mr Pearce: They have not been listed.

Mr OMODEI: I will come to the Minister's comments in a minute. It is interesting to note the corporate objectives the Australian Heritage Commission adopted in 1985-86. One was to identify places of National Estate significance and compile a register of the National Estate. Another was to devise a strategy for the systematic identification of places suitable for nomination for the register, and compile a comprehensive register of the National Estate as quickly as resources would allow. It also acted to provide advice and reports on the National Estate to the Minister and other Ministers, departments and authorities, and to develop mechanisms for consultation and information exchange with Commonwealth, State and local government authorities, business and conservation organisations and individuals as necessary and desirable. Those are some of the corporate objectives of the Australian Heritage Commission, yet this Minister says he has not been consulted about these 330 properties, a significant number, in the southern forest region. To list those properties without consultation at a time when the economy of the State is hard pressed and people are under stress -

Mr Pearce: They have not been listed.

Mr OMODEI: It is proposed to list them. One wonders what would have occurred if the Southern Heritage Action Group had not come into play. We know that, according to the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, registration imposes some constraints on the actions of Commonwealth Ministers and authorities. Section 30 of the Act provides that the Commonwealth Ministers and agencies must not take any action which would adversely affect any places on the register unless there are no feasible prudent alternatives or unless all action is taken to minimise damage where there is no such alternative. The commission has no power over the actions of State or local government or private owners which may affect the place on the National Estate register. If it will not affect the State, why did the Department of Conservation and Land Management work for 12 months on a memorandum of understanding?

Mr Pearce: That memorandum of understanding is made clear by the Press release you quoted, and it has to do only with the forest.

Mr OMODEI: I will quote it in a minute; it has to do with the timber production areas. I am well aware of the memorandum and I was on the ground floor when it was first mooted. I know the reasons for it. It will affect the logging of our State forest and place a greater cost on the timber industry. If this Australian Heritage Commission listing has no effect on State and local government, or local matters, why must we have a memorandum?

Mr Pearce: The simple answer is that in the Eastern States -

Mr OMODEI: The simple answer to that is that it is the chip licence.

Mr Pearce: It has nothing to do with the chip licence.

Mr OMODEI: The Minister amazes me. It is the chip licence, and I can tell members that that is the only reason for having a memorandum of understanding.

Mr Pearce: No you can't.

Mr OMODEI: It is the only action over which the Commonwealth has powers; that is, the export licence for the chip industry.

Mr Pearce: You should talk to the timber industry a little more than you have.

Mr OMODEI: Why, then, has the Premier of this State and the Minister complained to the Australian Heritage Commission about the listing of Hepburn Heights, Secret Harbour and Port Kennedy? It is for exactly that reason: The Commonwealth has power over foreign investment in those projects.

Mr Pearce: I know all of this.

Mr OMODEI: That is exactly what this is about as well. Why has the Premier not supported those farmers?

Mr Pearce: She has.

Mr OMODEI: I have been keeping a close watch on this issue and I have not seen the Premier make any statements about southern forest heritage listings. Many property owners in the southern forest have some kind of foreign investment and borrowings.

Mr Pearce interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Speaker drew attention yesterday to the difficulty that arises when members continue to address each other directly across the Chamber without directing their remarks through the Chair. I think the last five or 10 minutes have seen that process get a little out of hand, and while there is no objection to the occasional interjection, when it receives a response prefaced by a direct "you" it really makes the debate deteriorate. I ask the member for Warren to address his remarks through the Chair and the interjections can then be dealt with accordingly.

Mr OMODEI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will certainly accede to your demands. I think the Minister has a guilty conscience.

Question on notice No 74 yesterday in this place asked the Minister for the Environment -

- (1) In relation to the joint Department of Conservation and Land Management and Australian Heritage Commission assessment of the southern forest region -
  - (a) when did the department recognise that private properties had been included in the proposed area for National Estate listing?

The response from the Minister for the Environment was -

- (a) Approximately one month prior to the completion of the study.

The next question was -

- (b) what steps did the department take once it realised that private properties would be included in the proposed listing?

The Minister's answer was -

- (b) CALM strongly advised the Australian Heritage Commission not to proceed with the proposal to list private properties. When the Australian Heritage Commission informed CALM that it would proceed to propose the listing, CALM advised the Australian Heritage Commission to clearly communicate its intentions to landowners to ensure that they were informed of the effect of the proposal.

I will quote now from the *Heritage News* of February 1992, which contains a nice photograph of the Minister for the Environment looking slightly like a startled chook. I will give it to him later - it is not a very good photograph.

Mr Pearce: Who produces this *Heritage News*?

Mr OMODEI: It is produced by the Australian Heritage Commission. On page 6 an article headed "Regional review solves problems: WA Minister" begins -

The Western Australian Minister for the Environment, Mr Bob Pearce, right, has supported the Australian Heritage Commission-CALM forest agreement which was released on 5 February.

I have no problem with the CALM-AHC agreement, even though some people in the Forest Protection Society have problems in relation to the future of the forests and the timber production areas. I believe it is a step in the right direction and, if necessary, can be amended to make a workable agreement. The article reported the Minister for the Environment as stating -

'Both public and private land is included, since listing is not a land use decision.

Mr Pearce: That is not a quote from me.

Mr OMODEI: I will give it to the Minister.

Mr Pearce: It is an Australian Heritage Commission publication.

Mr OMODEI: Is that the Minister's photograph?

Mr Pearce: It is not my publication.

Mr OMODEI: The article continues -

'What is so significant about the CALM-AHC agreement is that national estate values and forest management have been examined in a comprehensive regional review.

We all agree with that. The article says later -

Mr Pearce said that the Commission was not required to consider the economic impact of listing a place in the Register - a key difference between it and State land managers who must take into account the economic and social impacts of their decisions.

Mr Pearce: If what you are saying is true, they are clearly Australian Heritage Commission statements.

Mr OMODEI: I think the Minister is guilty. The article goes on to say -

Listing a place does not directly affect the way it is managed, unless a Commonwealth decision is involved, such as granting an export licence or approving foreign investment.

This is the Minister talking.

Mr Pearce: No it isn't.

Mr OMODEI: I quote again -

'Parts of the Southern Forest Region with heritage values remain outside conservation reserves and at some stage will be harvested for timber. However, each of these will be represented locally . . .

Mr Pearce: That was drawn up by the Australian Heritage Commission, with my photograph. I was not consulted about listing of private areas; that is a fact.

Mr OMODEI: On page 5 of the *Heritage News* an article appears headed "Joint study a model for conservation". There is a picture of my good friend, Dr Syd Shea, and one of the Executive Director of the Australian Heritage Commission, Ms Sharon Sullivan. This article states quite clearly -

'In the study conducted with CALM, Commission technical staff consulted more than 40 nationally recognised experts to ensure that its assessment methodology was appropriate and scientifically rigorous.

Later on it says -

'Identification and assessment of the national estate values present in the Southern Forest Region involved analyses of 134 separate values including: land form

diversity; vegetation types; rare flora and fauna; granite outcrops; coastal landforms; wetlands; wilderness; undisturbed forest and woodland.

'Each type of value was analysed separately, posing the questions:

- . where is the value located within the Region?
- . what is its condition in the region?
- . what is its past logging history?
- . what is its past grazing history?

We do not have grazing in State forests, in wood production areas, Minister. The publication continues -

What are its characteristics within the Region?

Mr Pearce: That 100 year forest used to be a grazing area. Are you aware of that?

Mr OMODEI: How many crops did the farmers get from it?

Mr Pearce: Much of the land in your electorate used to be forest! That is how much you know!

Mr OMODEI: I know it very well. As a matter of fact, the 100 year old forest is 140 years old. The publication continues -

Ms Sullivan said that the analysis was 'tenure-free'. In other words, it ignored whether the forest was located on public or private land. It also ignored whether the place was already listed in the Register of the National Estate.

That means that the Minister for the Environment was advised by the Australian Heritage Commission that the study was taking place, and he knew this all along. He went to Manjimup to talk to the farmers, I am told. I understand that my friend Robbie Allen approached the Minister who was shaking like a leaf.

Mr Pearce: He was not.

Mr OMODEI: The Minister for the Environment was shaking like a leaf because he was guilty of playing both ends against the middle. He knew there would be a major backlash as a result of that Australian Heritage Commission listing. He went down there and paid lip service to the farmers in my area, and that was disgusting. I will provide the document for the Minister to read. It is the *Heritage News*, Special Edition, Volume 14 Number 3 of February 1992. In an answer to a question yesterday the Minister stated that he knew about this -

Mr Pearce: I did not say that.

Mr OMODEI: I will quote from *Hansard*. The question was when did the department recognise that private properties had been included in the proposal for national State listing -

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member is breaching Standing Orders by quoting from an uncorrected copy of *Hansard*.

Mr OMODEI: I think the Minister knows the answer.

Mr Pearce: The answer talks about the department, not me.

Mr OMODEI: The publication to which I refer is dated February 1992, so I find it highly improbable that the Minister did not know about the listings.

Mr Pearce: That bulletin was put out after the listings were made and agreed to.

Mr OMODEI: When the farmers in the southern forest region find out about the Minister's activities they will not be too happy.

Mr Pearce: I think they are pleased that I have managed to defer the listings so far and that I will probably be able to stop them.

Mr OMODEI: It is a Clayton's deferral, and the Minister knows it.

Mr Pearce: The member has done nothing in that regard; he has only been running around trying to score political points.



Mr OMODEI: The Minister should ask the people in my electorate. They will tell him.

I now wish to cover an area of major concern for the people of Nannup. It is a matter that I raised last night in this place regarding the activities of the Department for Community Services in acquiring property in the Nannup district for the Aboriginal recidivist program. This is a sorry saga of mismanagement and conflict between departments. We have heard conflicting statements by the responsible Ministers and this is an indication of the age old lack of consultation between the Government and the community. The Nannup Shire and the people of Nannup are upset about the proposal to place this facility in that area. It is strange that on Friday last week the Department for Community Services secured a property in the Nannup district for the program. One wonders why the property was secured on the Friday just before the resumption of Parliament.

I have referred the matter to the Minister for South-West and I have written to the Minister for Community Services. I have not received any response to my most recent correspondence. The Government proposes to purchase a property and to bring four to six recidivists into the area at the one time. The original proposal was by the Government with the approval of the Gnuraren group of Aborigines in Busselton. Since then the Gnuraren group has been left out of the issue; it has been totally ignored. A well-known anthropologist in the area has referred to the issue as the "Mick and Bob show". He is referring to Mike Hill, the coordinator of the program. Yesterday I had contact with people in the area who are very upset. As a result of my request the Minister for Agriculture, who was in Nannup last week, consulted the Nannup Shire. It concerns me that the Minister for Agriculture was not consulted as Chairman of the Juvenile Crime Committee. He should have been involved when the Premier set up a committee to review juvenile crime legislation. There has been little or no consultation between the Department for Community Services, the Minister, and the Minister for South-West, who has acted as the Minister for Community Services in the past.

Mr Bridge: The comments by the member are true; there have been discussions between the president of the shire and me. The president said that he would follow up the discussions with a letter to me. I have not received that letter.

Mr OMODEI: I appreciate the efforts of the Minister for Agriculture to talk to the Nannup Shire. That is more than the Minister for Community Services has done; he has failed in his duties.

Mr Ripper: The Department for Community Services has contacted the Nannup Shire.

Mr OMODEI: It has. The Department for Community Services went to the Nannup Shire and said that it had contacted the Manjimup Shire which DCS claimed had no problem with the issue. The department has not been to the Manjimup Shire. The department also stated that it received a very good hearing from the Nannup Shire. It has given the impression that the Nannup Shire is in favour of the program when it is not.

Mr Ripper: I have corresponded with the Nannup Shire on this matter.

Mr OMODEI: Does the Minister want me to quote from that correspondence? The shire has stated that it is very unhappy about the proposal to place Aborigines into a community which has not had Aborigines in it for at least the last 60 to 100 years.

Several members interjected.

Mr OMODEI: It does not matter whether it is an Aboriginal recidivist program or a white recidivist program. Why move Aborigines into an area which has no Aborigines at present? The Wandering Mission has been vested in the Southern Aboriginal Corporation and covers 20 000 hectares of land, of which 7 000 hectares are cleared and fenced. It includes a school dormitory and a magnificent homestead. It has flats, a shearing shed, a football oval and a go-kart area. The Nyoongahs live in the area and are happy to do so. What is the Government up to? Why has the Government gone to a location in the Nannup Shire - a peaceful place in the south west - where many farmers own a second property in the Scott River or Jasper areas which normally are unattended and which are a temptation to those people if they decide to abscond? The Minister admitted last night in this House that when the program was instituted in the south west six of the recidivists got away.

The Minister for Community Services has not even answered a question on this issue asked many weeks ago by the member for Nedlands.

Mr Ripper: The member for Nedlands has not provided the details for which I asked.

Mrs Beggs: Where else are we to put the program?

Mr OMODEI: I have just finished telling the House. Is the Minister deaf? I have located another facility. The Wandering Mission, once owned by the Catholic community and now vested in the Southern Aboriginal Corporation, comprises 20 000 hectares of land. It already has all the necessary facilities in place. However, the Department for Community Services went to an isolated area in Nannup and said to property owners that it would buy the next door neighbour's land and asked whether one property owner would sell his land also. By chance the landowner rang his neighbour and asked whether the department was buying his property. The answer was that he had not heard from the department. That is the tactic. It has been a disgraceful exhibition by the Department for Community Services. It is a disgraceful situation.

Mr Ripper: The land has not been acquired by the Department for Community Services.

Mr OMODEI: I quote now from *The West Australian* of 13 March. The article contains a very nice photograph of the Minister for Community Services and is headed "Trade skills expand choices". It states -

Community Services Minister Eric Ripper yesterday faced up to teenagers who have the odds stacked against them when it comes to applying for jobs - juvenile offenders.

But the only sparks that flew were from an oxy-torch one of the Longmore detainees was using to complete work for a TAFE-accredited course.

Mrs Beggs: Isn't that fantastic?

Mr OMODEI: It is brilliant. The article continues -

Young offenders sentenced to Longmore or Riverbank area now required to do trade skills and vocation training including metal work and cabinet making, as part of their rehabilitation.

Training completed inside the detention centre is recognised and can be used when applying for jobs or for further education.

That is an excellent program, for which the Minister should be commended. That is what should happen to the young recidivists. However, what will happen at Lake Jasper? They will be clearing walk trails and it is claimed that the Aborigines will be rekindling their ancestral ties although Aborigines have not been in the area for 100 years! That is how ridiculous this proposal is. Also, the Lake Jasper area is under water for four months of the year. What will the detainees do? Will they paddle around in canoes?

Mr Ripper: Is the D'Entrecasteaux National Park also under water for four months of the year?

Mr OMODEI: Yes, the majority of it is. Why can the Government not send the detainees to the Wandering Mission, which already has the necessary facilities?

Mr Pearce: Anywhere but your electorate.

Mr OMODEI: That is not the point at all! I am questioning the motives of this Government; at a time when the Department for Community Services should be concerned about the social impact of this proposal on the quiet community of Nannup it is starting the new program. It also states the rubbish that the program will rekindle the ties to the ancestors of these youths. I have never heard such gobbledegook in my life!

Mrs Watkins: I cannot believe you; I spent this morning discussing this issue, but you do not have the capacity to listen.

Mr OMODEI: The member for Wanneroo should go down to Lake Jasper. The point has been made. The people of Nannup are not happy about this proposal, for which the consultation process has been nil. A commitment was provided by the Minister for South-West, representing the Minister for Community Services, that before any land was purchased or anything else happened, a number of criteria must be met. These included such things as considering the isolation of the area, the proximity of the facility to neighbours, the acceptance of the program by neighbours and the acceptance by the local shires and the community. However, yesterday this Minister said in this place that those criteria are

dismissed. The Minister wants to forge ahead with his program, which will probably cost the State millions of dollars, against the wishes of the people of the area. I have said enough on this issue.

A series of problems has arisen with the Walpole Primary School in my electorate. A program was submitted to the ministry which was not agreed to, and I will certainly be taking up this matter in the future. I will circulate for members photographs of transportable buildings which will be used as permanent toilets for teachers at the Walpole Primary School - which are yet another disgrace. This school also has serious problems with its classrooms, staff room, library and hall. I will pursue this matter with the Ministry of Education.

[The member's time expired.]

*Sitting suspended from 12.54 to 2.00 pm.*

**MR McNEE (Moore)** [2.03 pm]: In reply to the Governor's Speech this House has heard much of the same in the last few days because this Government is showing its true colours and the depths to which it has deteriorated. The Government has now reached the pits.

**Mr Pearce:** I am regretting this already.

**Mr McNEE:** That is the "Minister for Blocking Everything" sticking in his three pennies' worth. I am not sure what sort of environment we would have if the Minister had his way, but we would not have much development. The Premier had a dream! She thought she would have the WA Advantage. I am not sure she did not confuse Western Australia with the supermarket near her home -

**Mr Lewis:** It is the "WA Disadvantage".

**Mr McNEE:** Of course it is the "WA Disadvantage". I give the Premier full marks as she tried valiantly to sell this ridiculous proposal while at the same time heading the State that has the worst unemployment figures in Australia. I suppose she reflects in the glory of that. The Premier is inflicting a great deal of pain on the people of Western Australia. It is interesting to note that this nation must increase its exports by 25 per cent if we are to maintain our present standard of living. An article in the *Bulletin* which the journalist attributed to Mr Ralph of CRA Exploration Pty Ltd and which, to my knowledge, Mr Ralph has not refuted, mentioned that in the 1960s CRA established iron ore mines in the Pilbara. I cannot remember precisely the year but let us say that CRA signed a contract at Christmas 1967, and that by August of the following year the company had built a couple of townships and 300 kilometres of rail and was in the business of exporting. Mr Ralph said that in these times the company would not get past all the environmental tests. Of course, the "Minister for Blocking Everything" would probably think that would be a pretty good job, but I remind the Minister that we need development to maintain our standard of living.

In my electorate, as in many other electorates, considerable sums of money need to be expended on our road system. Western Australia is starting to look like a third world country because our facilities are falling to bits. This little creep of a Government does not have any money for the maintenance and repairs of our road system; in particular, I mention the Great Northern Highway. Revenue collected from the fuel tax is something like \$7 billion a year, yet, as has often been pointed out by members on this side of the House - although we do not seem to be getting the message to the Government or its friends in Canberra - only \$1.4 billion is returned to be expended on our roads. I asked a question about a particular stretch of road in my electorate. In about the past 12 months there have been 14 accidents between Muchea and Bindoon on the Great Northern Highway in which two people were killed. Recently there has been another accident and unfortunately two more people were killed. I began to wonder about the Government and about the Prime Minister's 10 point plan. Sure enough, he has a 10 point plan which refers to "black spots" and the measures needed to qualify roads with black spot funding. Members will have noticed the signs the Federal Government has placed by many roads to tell us it is spending taxpayers' dollars on a federally funded project which happens to be a section of road. Those signs are scattered all over Western Australia. Like many other members I have difficulty getting the Government to spend funds on widening roads to include passing lanes and putting in kerbs to make them safer. Yet to promote itself the Federal Government has put up signs to tell us it is spending our dollars on sections of road. It is interesting to note how much those signs cost. The cheapest sign today costs approximately \$70 and the larger sign costs approximately \$700.

Mr Omodei: The only thing they don't do is put their names on it.

Mr McNEE: I am waiting for the Minister's photograph to be put on them. In the metropolitan area the cost of erecting a sign is between \$30 and \$200. In rural areas it is between \$50 and \$1 100. The Government seems to think rural people are shortsighted so it puts up big signs to tell us it is spending our dollars on roads which it stole from the State in the first place. Therefore, if it costs \$1 100 to erect a \$750 sign in a rural area the total cost would be about \$1 850. Bearing in mind that that sort of waste is taking place and that the Prime Minister and his Transport Minister claim they have a "black spots" program which I thought would help my electorate particularly, I examined it and wondered how it would apply.

One of the measures on the 10 point plan is the introduction of compulsory helmet wearing by cyclists. Labor Governments seem to think they are everybody's keeper and, therefore, they need more and more regulations. I agree that people should conduct themselves in a safe manner when driving on our roads. In 1990 nine people were killed by being knocked from a bicycle and in 1991 eight were killed. That is regrettable and not to be ignored. Bearing in mind that these regulations are supposed to be leading towards the allocation of funds for roads I also questioned how many pedestrians were killed. In the years 1990 and 1991 no pedestrians were killed at pedestrian crossings. At unprotected areas of road, 31 people were killed in 1990 and 16 in 1991. If we must have a rule requiring us to wear helmets when we ride bicycles, what protective clothing should we wear when we cross roads? It occurred to me that in many areas we should have median strips to assist people when crossing roads. Not a great deal of money has been spent on them either.

We are left lamenting about a lack of money for roads while the Government makes token efforts and covers its inaction by creating an illusion that it is doing something by addressing issues which appear to be relatively popular. I am sure the Government was motivated politically in legislating for cyclists to wear helmets rather than by its feeling for the welfare of cyclists. If it really wants to improve road safety, it could use some of the money spent on erecting signs. However, it does not seem to spend very much time worrying about that detail. In fact, when I was driving into town recently one evening I saw no less than five cyclists between Midland and the city without lights on their bicycles. Surely if we are considering protecting people on bicycles that is a serious matter to be rectified.

However, the situation is worse in the country; in my electorate people are talking about the transport of fertiliser. It is causing them problems because the Government seems to want Westrail to be almost non-competitive. A number of farmers from the Miling area of my electorate recently complained that they were unable to convey their fertiliser to their local siding. After making some inquiries, I found that they could transport the fertiliser provided it was carried on a 200 tonne train and they caught the train when it was designated for that area, and it could be the monthly train. Under the new regulations, certain trains travel into certain areas. I can understand that to a degree; Westrail is trying to run an efficient operation. I have been giving this matter some thought because I would like to see Westrail become very competitive, as would many farmers because they find it a very convenient system of transport. It must be competitive and its operations must be examined. When I made some inquiries into the matter I was surprised to discover that four crew shifts are required to send a train load of fertiliser from Kwinana to Miling. It can take up to six crew shifts. That is a distance of only 200 kilometres. If the Government were serious about Westrail's competitiveness it would cut out much of that nonsense.

Mr C.J. Barnett: How long does the train take to get there?

Mr McNEE: It is not easy to explain. The train may leave Kwinana at 7.00 am and arrive at about 4.00 pm, but it then takes 10 hours to unload the fertilizer. The travelling time is short, but it is not as simple as that because sometimes the train is broken up along the way. This Government seems absolutely determined to protect outmoded work methods and industry will pay the price. Of course, while industry pays the price Western Australians continue to pay the price with no jobs being available. Recently, we heard the Federal Treasurer say on the radio that the recession was over. It was almost as if he were turning off the light and saying that this month is no recession month so we simply switch off the light. What a nonsense statement! Was it not announced recently that Australia's growth rate was 0.03 per cent? It is like a moving snail. No-one wants to knock Australia, but this

Government wants to bathe in the glory of that and has the temerity to say that the recession is over. At the same time it is maintaining work practices which must be 100 years old and wondering why its departments cannot deliver services. The people who are paying the penalty are the Government's supporters, that is if it has any supporters left. I am sure it does not have too many left.

I also do not agree with the cop bashing that has been occurring in the country recently. I support the Police Force totally. It has a difficult job to do. The Government has managed to turn the Police Force into a section of the taxation department. Business people in my electorate have complained to me about being burgled so often that their insurance companies refuse to accept their insurance premiums. Those business people do not have any argument with the insurance companies. I made some inquiries into how many breaking and entering offences had occurred in recent times and was surprised to discover that no statistics are kept on that. I do not suggest for one moment that statistics will help solve the problem, but I thought they might give an idea of what was happening. If there is some way these people can be helped it will be by noting the pattern of burglaries and encouraging the Government to put more personnel in those areas to try to reduce the incidence of burglaries. Burglary is a great problem for businesses and their premises must be protected like Fort Knox. That costs a king's ransom and with no insurance they are not covered for further break-ins. The attitude of any department must be moulded to a degree by the Government. Surely the matters on which the Government places importance would be in the areas in which the departments place a great deal of emphasis. People say all too often that the only contact they ever have with the police is when they have committed minor misdemeanours on the road. They get the impression that that is what the police are for. They are wrong. That attitude does not help lift the morale of the Police Force. I have a great deal of respect for the police. They should be able to carry out their duties in an efficient manner.

Recently, the Prime Minister introduced the "One Australia" package and we had from the State Government the "WA Disadvantage". When the Prime Minister released his package he said a "state of the art super tech sewerage scheme" would be introduced in Western Australia. That provoked a great deal of interest from many people. The Prime Minister probably thought that it would make all Western Australians sit up and sing. Of course, we all know that everyone was at a complete loss to know what on earth the Prime Minister was talking about. I followed the matter with interest. Indeed, I asked a question of the Minister for Water Resources recently as follows -

- (1) Did Western Australia receive an allocation for sewerage works in the Prime Minister's "One Australia" economic statement?
- (2) If yes -
  - (a) how much was the allocation;
  - (b) would the Minister provide a breakdown of how this money will be spent;
  - (c) how much of this money will be spent employing Western Australians?

I do not know whether members always receive joke answers but I have received a few. The Minister replied -

(1)-(2)

Following the "One Australia" statement, State and Federal officials are negotiating details of a program to address sewerage in Western Australia. It is anticipated that \$20 million will be available.

We all know that there is a \$800 million or \$1 billion deficit in the sewerage requirements of Western Australia. I understand that the one place the system could have been used was on the Nepean River at Penrith, New South Wales. I think the Prime Minister's speech writers made a mistake because the Western Australian Water Authority representatives were not ready to say where the money was going. The Minister for Water Resources flew north and did not want to say anything.

Mr Minson: He would be in the business most of the time.

Mr McNEE: Yes.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Is it a sewerage led recovery?

Mr McNEE: It could well be a sewerage led recovery! We might need a high tech sewerage plant if we allowed water to flow into the upper reaches of the Swan River. Western Australians need an infill sewerage system and it requires a large sum of money to do that. If the Prime Minister gives Western Australia \$20 million it would be welcome, but an amount of \$100 million would be much better. It is another deceit on the part of the Commonwealth Government. How much credence can one put in the Prime Minister's One Australia proposal? What credence can one put in the WA Advantage package? What can one believe about it?

Mr C.J. Barnett: Be fair; it is Paul Keating's third package like this and he said that each one would solve the problems.

Mr McNEE: I remember on one occasion when Paul Keating brought down the Federal Budget he said that it was the Budget which would bring home the bacon.

Mr Pearce: I bet you lay restless in your bed when he said that.

Several members interjected.

Mr McNEE: Wait until the people of the Dandaragan Shire Council get hold of him - they will make him squeal!

Several members interjected.

An Opposition member: He will not have anywhere else to go.

Mr McNEE: He will have no friends.

The point is that Western Australia is being treated badly by the Commonwealth Government and if it continues life for Western Australians will be the pits. We certainly need an election. My electors will welcome this Government's going to the polls because it will provide them with an opportunity to throw out this Government and then the Liberal Party can turn the "WA Disadvantage" into the "WA Real Advantage".

**DR ALEXANDER** (Perth) [2.34 pm]: In addressing the Governor's Speech I will concentrate on the recently released inner city housing task force document. Before I do so, I want to correct an impression which the Leader of the National Party perhaps inadvertently created in his address this morning when he said that everyone would agree with some of the statements in the Governor's address including the following -

This plan is based on the premise that the creation of wealth is the province of the private sector and that Government plays a crucial supportive role by . . .

Several things are listed including the provision of infrastructure. When I heard that statement last week I wondered whether it had been taken out of the wrong speech because it sounded like the sort of comment one would have heard when Sir Charles Court was Premier.

Mr C.J. Barnett: We recognise that organisations like the SEC create wealth. It is productive. The member should criticise the Government, not the Opposition.

**DR ALEXANDER**: The member should hear me out. I was making the point that the two major parties have moved so close together that what appears to me to be a Liberal Party statement appears under the guise of a Labor Party statement. I was referring to a past Liberal Government; it is up to the member for Cottesloe to decide whether he agrees with that statement now. It is a passing observation and it seems to me that at least some members in this Parliament, and I am one, do not necessarily agree with a statement of that sort.

As I said at the outset, I will concentrate my remarks on the report of the inner city housing task force which was released the day before yesterday; a copy reached me only early yesterday morning, therefore, I have not had time to completely digest the document. It is a thoroughly researched document and is in two volumes and from what I can see it contains some exciting and innovative ideas. It is a very welcome report and is long overdue.

As a number of observers have pointed out, the population of the central city area has continually declined over the past 30 or more years. Of course, quoting figures depends on the definitions of the area one adopts, but this report adopts a broad definition of the central

city area; that is, Thomas Street to the west, Bulwer Street to the north and the river to the east and south. The population of that area has declined from around 30 000 in the early 1950s to fewer than 15 000 according to the 1986 census data. Unfortunately the detailed figures for the 1991 census are not available, but I suggest that if they were they would show that the population for that area would be somewhere between 12 000 and 13 000 today.

While various observers, critics and politicians have talked about the decline and have suggested measures to address the situation, very little has been done, and that is a reason the report is welcome. What is needed now is action, not words. The problem is well recognised. The resident population of the city area, the supposed heart of the region, has declined over that period. Thirty years ago when the planners were drawing up proposals for the city centre that did not seem to them to be a bad thing. It was thought at that time that the city centre should be mainly a business, commerce and community regional centre, housing regional facilities of various kinds rather than people. Since that time and with the decline in the residential population it has been recognised that this policy has had an adverse effect not only on the city centre and the business community, but also on the entire metropolitan region because it removed life and vitality from the city centre. It also means that people who need to be close to facilities including workplaces, hospitals, regional offices and so forth are driven further out to the suburbs, some by choice but many because they have nowhere else to go. They are driven out by rising land prices. This problem has been recognised officially at long last and it looks as though the groundwork is being laid for a solution to it. Some people suggest that the central area where currently only about 10 000 permanent residents live - the other 5 000 on the books being residents of hospitals, gaols, police stations and hotels - may not be a suitable place to promote as a living environment.

Some people say that the suburbs are the only place to encourage people to live in the metropolitan area. I believe there is a growing recognition that locations in and around the city centre, whether in Perth or Fremantle, provide an alternative lifestyle that many people appreciate and live in, or would seek to live in if they could afford it. One observer is quoted as saying to the inner city task force that life is more interesting in the city; that there are more eccentrics in the city and that one's own eccentricities are tolerated more. That person must have seen me and my mates walking around the city to say that. I am perhaps one of the local eccentrics! I think that people realise that the many different people and lifestyles in the city area are one of its attractions. The task force recognises that we should build on that strength and encourage more people to live there. At the moment many people cannot afford to live in the city centre, or cannot find suitable accommodation there even if they wish to. I will look more closely at the task force's report later.

I turn now to some of the missed opportunities caused by not taking up property in recent years where residential populations could have been, or still could be, accommodated. The first of those was East Perth, about which we had a detailed debate last year in this place when the East Perth Development Authority Bill passed through this House. After years of preparation and talk no residences are on the ground in the East Perth project area. In the mid-1980s Government reports talked of the residential population in East Perth increasing by up to 10 000 people. Since that time further dwellings in the area have been knocked down or acquired for road widening or other purposes. No new construction has taken place within the project area. Despite the passage of that legislation last year we are still without action on the ground.

Many people have been forced to move out of the East Perth area because of rising prices and compulsory acquisition of their properties for freeways and other purposes. Homeswest put forward proposals for developments in Plain Street and other areas but nothing has appeared on the ground. The planning process has been a long and difficult one and calls have been made for a better planning approach and public participation. I have been part of that call. Nonetheless, when the plan finally came out last year we saw the residential component reduced significantly. That was one of the points taken up during the debate on that Bill last year. The outline development plan released in October 1990 contained a modest residential component of 600 proposed residential units which would have provided a maximum population, depending on occupation rate, of 1 000 people, nowhere near the 10 000 people talked of originally. It is said by the planners responsible for drawing up the revised plan in response to a host of community submissions - and in response, I understand, to some pressure from Government agencies such as Homeswest - that the residential

component in the revised plan, and particularly the low income residential component, will be greater. I certainly hope so. That plan is due for release next month. I, for one, will be looking closely at it to ascertain whether those commitments have been honoured.

When I raised this matter with the Minister for Planning 12 months ago he went on the record as saying he did not think it appropriate for Homeswest to be involved in a development in East Perth. I believe that statement disappointed a number of people. I know that since that time the matter has been taken up with the Minister and I understand from statements made by him recently, and by the Minister for Housing, that that attitude is no longer hard and fast. I hope that is the case, because I believe that Homeswest, and low income housing in particular, have an important role to play in that part of the city.

The second opportunity missed lies in the activities of the Asset Management Taskforce, which was set up for purposes other than residential ones, to offset some of the budgetary problems that the Government was facing. I will not go into the reasons for those budgetary problems now as I think all members are familiar with them. The Government looked at sites to be disposed of for a maximum possible price. In many circumstances it did not do particularly well because it sold the asset on a falling rather than on a rising market. It was disappointing to see many valuable assets disposed of without real thought being given to the possibility of residential use of those sites. The market site in the city is a classic example of this. It is still empty and will probably be empty for years to come. It has been described as a sandy wasteland, which it certainly is. Even the City of Perth, a conservative body when it comes to pressing for residential development, tried to persuade the Government to include a residential component in the plans for the redevelopment of that site. In the end the site was sold for commercial purposes. However, the agent actually onselling the land to people who want to build there is finding that it is a no go area as nobody wants to buy the land or build there in the current climate.

Mr Bloffwitch: Probably a speculation.

Dr ALEXANDER: I do not know who purchased the land, or who will use it in the short term. No residential development is planned for what in my opinion was an ideal site for at least some residential component close to the station, the city and a generous area of parkland.

Mr Lewis: A scheme is afoot to grow a castor oil crop there.

Dr ALEXANDER: That would be an interesting use of the site, one that might at least return some cash for the outlay that went into subdividing and selling the site, not to mention the demolition of the historic buildings. The inner city housing task force draws attention to this problem. I am pleased to say that one of its recommendations is that wherever feasible we should retain Government property as a public asset and utilise it for inner city housing by using long term leases or joint venture projects. In my opinion that is a sensible suggestion, but one avoided studiously in the past, particularly by the Asset Management Taskforce and the East Perth Development Authority, which had been planning to sell off valuable Government land assets without looking, firstly, at the residential component and, secondly, at the option of leasehold land rather than selling the land so that it remained in public hands, returning something to the State in the long term rather than the short term. That is a forward looking suggestion by the task force. I certainly hope the Government takes up that matter as it needs to. The third opportunity missed is the whole swathe of land lying derelict through East Perth and Northbridge which is the northern freeway reserve. This is becoming a bit of a joke in many circles because that reserve has been on the map for 30 years and there is no move to resolve the dilemma associated with it.

Mr Lewis: We will build it.

Dr ALEXANDER: I hope any Liberal Government would not do that as there are many good reasons why it should not. I am suggesting that in the meantime that land is going to waste.

Mr Lewis: We will solve Riverside Drive and all those problems.

Dr ALEXANDER: That is another debate, but I do not think the member will solve those problems. There is massive community opposition in Perth, and if the member for Applecross' party has any thought of taking Perth at the next election, if it goes into the election with the promise that it will build the northern bypass as soon as possible it will not



stand a chance. That is just a friendly warning. There is massive community opposition to that bypass, and that is one reason it has been continually deferred.

The bureaucracy's latest report on these proposals in the road reserves review last year said this link will be needed in the medium to long term. Is that 20 years or 50 years? Who knows? If that timetable is followed the land will lie unused for another 50 years, because the Government has gradually acquired the land over the last 30 years and has leased it out for short term purposes.

Mr Lewis: Are we all going to ride bicycles?

Dr ALEXANDER: There is a viable public transport alternative, on which I will elaborate at a later date.

We have millions of dollars worth of land locked up through compulsorily acquired Government ownership and it is not being used for productive purposes. It is let out on short term leases and much of it is derelict. On the corner of William and Newcastle Streets three historic houses stand behind cyclone wire fencing. The site is very unattractive and is a target for vandals and no doubt rats - of all descriptions. It is a very undesirable location which has been totally underutilised. Homeswest, to its credit, had a proposal to redevelop and renovate it for boarding house purposes, but that proposal was overruled.

Mr Lewis: It is a waste of time.

Dr ALEXANDER: I do not agree. Homeswest has already done a very good job on properties in Parry Street, East Perth, and in Newcastle Street. It has retrieved many buildings from dereliction and restored them so that they are now serving a useful residential function. Unfortunately, elsewhere Homeswest has been blocked from further renovation and redevelopment by the planning authorities, who are determined to build this unnecessary road in the long term.

I believe it is a scandal that potentially millions of dollars worth of land is locked up in a freeway reserve over which there is huge community controversy and which could be much better used for other purposes; for example, residential purposes. We recognise the problem with the declining residential population, we are identifying sites on which to build residential premises, yet here we have a whole swathe of land which has lain underutilised for 30 years and we are totally ignoring its potential for residential purposes. Many residents' action groups in the inner city have called for the Government and the planning authorities to re-examine that situation and consider the potential of that land for residential purposes, both public and private sector. I think that would be a very popular and financially sound move if a public transport alternative, which has also been suggested, were closely examined in conjunction with that residential development. I believe that is another missed opportunity.

I turn now to the inner city housing task force's recommendations. The task force's report suggests a significant boost to the residential population of the central city. It says that over the next 10 years we could perhaps aim at an additional 10 000 residents in the central city area. That is a very ambitious target which would involve the construction of several thousand units - 5 000 to 7 000 at the very least, and possibly more, allowing for some decline of the existing stock. It is a very ambitious program, but that is not to say it is not achievable.

The report talks about the need for land tax concessions for residential purposes and for service charge alterations by statutory authorities such as the State Energy Commission and the Water Authority of Western Australia. I am aware from a recent development in East Perth which was publicised in the Press recently - and I think the member for Cottesloe had something to say about it - that SECWA's charges are not always sympathetic to encouraging inner city residential development. That is flying in the face of logic, because while SECWA may have to bear slightly higher charges in the short term, the whole city will benefit in the long term from encouraging extra residential premises in and around the central city areas. If it is necessary for SECWA to make concessions of this sort, it should look closely at doing so. I hope the task force and the Government will encourage it to do that in the months ahead.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Did the task force look specifically at the infrastructure charges or just talk more generally?

Dr ALEXANDER: It goes into infrastructure charges in quite some detail - water, electricity, and so on - and suggests various ways in which the statutory authorities could feasibly make concessions or provide incentives for residential development.

Another area mentioned is zoning incentives. This is a very important area because at the moment most of the city is zoned for commercial or industrial purposes - mainly commercial, these days. Over the years commercial development has spread further northwards and a good deal of housing in the area between the railway line and Bulwer Street has been taken over for commercial premises, as it has in West Perth in the last 20 to 30 years. In hindsight that was not a very wise policy. Firstly, much of the housing stock has been destroyed, which is a total waste of resources; secondly, much of the housing, where it has not been demolished, is not used very intensively or profitably; and thirdly, a commercial blight has spread right through the fringe area of the city, which makes it less attractive to the remaining residents. Therefore the report suggests that the commercial zoning needs to be reviewed. We have ample commercial zoning in the city to fill the demand for the next 10 to 20 years at least, without increasing it further; in fact, we could push it back without cramping the commercial development of the city.

At the same time the report suggests that zoning incentives in the form of plot ratio bonuses could be given where commercial developments include a residential component. That is a very useful suggestion provided it is regulated properly and that the residential premises do not appear just as plans on paper which are later converted to commercial purposes, which unfortunately happens at the moment. These sorts of recommendations are certainly welcome and are the basis for a return to a net increase in the Government's role in the residential regeneration of the city and, more importantly, the total amount of dwelling stock in and around the city. In this respect the Perth City Council needs to be involved as well, and the inner city housing task force pays attention to that. In contrast to Perth, the Fremantle City Council has been involved in inner city housing for years, and in my observation it has done an excellent job of providing incentives for private construction on one hand, and joint ventures with the private sector in modest housing developments on the other hand. The Perth City Council has always said it is someone else's job to get involved; no-one else has taken up the challenge and the vacuum has grown larger. I think perhaps opinion is finally changing at Council House now, and many councillors, the Lord Mayor included, are pushing for genuine council involvement in residential development in the city, which is long overdue. Again, the task force makes that point.

Another actor in the scene is Homeswest, and I have referred to its role on a number of occasions. It has a major project under construction in Goderich Street, East Perth at the moment, under which 50 to 100 aged persons' units will be constructed over the next 12 to 18 months. That is an example of the sort of thing that can be done by careful negotiation and consultation with surrounding residents. Homeswest seems to have come up with a development form which is acceptable to the majority of residents in the area and is not drawing too much flak compared to some of its other projects. It is a very good example of what can be achieved through a careful and measured approach to redevelopment in the city.

At the same time the private sector is involved in several projects in and around Goderich Street. I know of about a dozen major projects in recent years which have been completed, are under construction or are in the advanced planning stage. These projects will probably add up to 200 residential units in the Goderich Street area, a location targeted by the City Living task force. Therefore, the regeneration of the area has already started, albeit slowly. When taking into account the houses which have been demolished in the process, the net gains have not been spectacular. The older houses which have been demolished were large and housed a number of people, and the new, flash units house only one or two people. That underlines the point that new units should involve agencies such as Homeswest so that low income people are not squeezed out of the area to a greater extent than is already happening. Diversity and family housing must be provided.

I am glad to see that the task force has recognised the local community. People still live in the area, as was indicated in today's *The West Australian*. Violet Brown has lived in East Perth for many years, and has lived around the city centre for more than 60 years. Like Violet, many other people want to see out their days in peace in the East Perth area without disruption from development. I will take a leaf from the member for Marangaroo's book.

Mrs Beggs: I was about to say that I did not know that you were the member for Marangaroo!

Dr ALEXANDER: Now that I am on my way out, I can afford some largesse.

These residents deserve great consideration in the planning process, as, wittingly or otherwise, these residents are often the victims of public and private sector development. Tony Lennon is the executive chairman of one of the property developers involved in the area. He is also the Chairman of the City Living task force - I am sure no conflict of interests is involved - and he indicated that the plan did not involve forcing residents out of the areas to be redeveloped. I have great admiration for the work done by Tony Lennon on the task force, and it is pleasing that it is taking account of the needs and wishes of the residents of the area. A criticism of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority is that it has not taken sufficient account of the needs and wishes of the residents and businesses within its development area.

The City Living task force provides some hopeful signs for the future. However, it is crucial that as we turn from a complex analysis of the trends discovered by the task force, we transfer the words into action. I understand that the report will be available for public comment for the next month or two, and I hope that the public takes advantage of this consultation period and provides input. Once that is done, and once the task force is given a charter to act, I hope it gets on with its difficult task of restoring the lost residential life to the city centre.

MR READ (Murray) [3.04 pm]: The primary figures from the 1991 Census provided some interesting data, especially for those of us who live in the Peel region. The growth rates between 1986 and 1991 must be taken into account by Governments, State and local, when planning for the future. The Peel region comprises Mandurah, Murray, Waroona and Boddington, and from 1986 to 1991 this area had a total growth rate of 36.7 per cent. This can be broken down into local government authorities: The growth rate for Mandurah was 42 per cent; Murray, 23 per cent; Waroona, 22 per cent; and Boddington, 60 per cent. The Boddington figure transferred to total growth represents 531 residents, but this is still significant. The Peel region accounted for 5.9 per cent of the total population growth in Western Australia in the survey period of 1986 to 1991. During that same period the south west region of this State accounted for 11.4 per cent of the total growth in the State, and more than half - that is, 51.7 per cent - of the growth in the south west region occurred in the Peel region. The growth rate in the greater area of Bunbury was 17.9 per cent; Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 11.4 per cent; Perth, 15 per cent; Albany, 12.7 per cent; and Geraldton, 5.9 per cent.

When these figures are compared to the Peel region growth of 36.7 per cent, an indication is provided of what is taking place in this State. This is a warning to the Government, and to local government, that the south west, and the Peel region in particular, is growing at a rapid rate, and infrastructure must be provided to meet that demand. Some benefits have accrued to the Peel region as a result of that growth rate, but it also has brought problems. The region has a high rate of unemployment, particularly in Mandurah, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the State. This is for several reasons, such as the general state of the economy, some small businesses closing down, and the rapid growth rate of the area. We are witnessing a large migration to the region. In talking to local real estate agents and developers I discovered that Perth people who have lost their jobs or have retired early and have some equity in their homes are selling up in Perth and moving down to Mandurah. This area is still only one hour's drive from Perth, and these people are taking advantage of the lower land prices in the region; a block of land in the centre of Mandurah can still be purchased for \$19 000. Once these people move to the area they are technically unemployed and add to the unemployment figure.

Also, unemployed young people are shifting to the area to take advantage of lower and more accessible rental accommodation. Although the figures for the Peel region are similar to areas like Kwinana and Rockingham, our unemployment problem is not the same because the Murray and Mandurah area has more cause for hope. The unemployment problem can be addressed through the provision of industry infrastructure to create employment. Unfortunately, the major employer in the Peel region is Alcoa of Australia Ltd, and this company has not taken on new employees for some time. Nevertheless, the expansion at the Wagerup refinery created a few jobs, but many new employees commute to work from

outside the Peel region. Nevertheless, we must look very carefully at the Peel region and identify areas suitable for industrial development. Owing to the unique problems of the Peel-Harvey estuarine system, it is difficult to find suitable areas for industry, particularly heavy industry. Most members will be aware that some years ago Rhone Poulenc proposed to establish a rare earth processing plant not far from Pinjarra. That would have been a classic example of downstream processing. However, unfortunately as a result, I think, of some bad publicity or public relations work by Poulenc as well as local concerns about the suitability of that region for such a development, the project fell through. It is hoped that Rhone Poulenc will establish that facility elsewhere, but at this stage there is no news on that front. I believe the rare earth industry has quite substantially dropped. Nevertheless, those are the industries that will value add our products, especially the bauxite mined in the area which will be welcome in the Peel region. Notwithstanding that, environmental concerns exist because of the Peel-Harvey estuarine system which will make it difficult to overcome any problems.

I mentioned that people move to the Peel region for cheap housing. However, housing for those people on low incomes remains a problem. Although Homeswest has been making a good contribution by building new homes for its potential tenants, unfortunately the waiting list is extremely long. I have had a closer examination of that list which, again, reveals the emerging problem that many people want to move from other areas - dare I say Kwinana, Rockingham and areas even towards the wheatbelt - and live in Mandurah. Some of the people on the list must wait for almost four years to get their Homeswest home in the Mandurah-Murray area. Although this problem will be addressed partly by building more homes, it will be solved only to a small extent because I think the growth rate in the Peel region will continue. I seriously doubt that any local government authority will be able to meet the demands created by the population growth. The present population in the Peel region, for example, is 39 000 and it is estimated that that will reach 50 000 by the turn of the century, representing another 25 per cent or more growth. It will be difficult to meet the demands of people shifting into the area, especially those on low incomes, of which there seem to be a higher proportion than in the past, especially in Mandurah.

One of the other major problems in the Peel region, particularly Mandurah, is the lack of services and facilities for young people. Traditionally, Mandurah has been, shall we say, a retirement centre. Local government authorities and State and Federal Governments have geared the services and facilities towards meeting that particular age group. From 1986 to 1991 and before, a huge increase has occurred in the number of young families in the area. Unfortunately the Australian Bureau of Statistics has not released a breakdown of the age group for the Peel region, but from my doorknocking and visiting various areas, I am certain extraordinary growth has occurred in the number of young families in the area. Regrettably, no level of Government has been quite as prompt as it should in meeting the needs of these young families; for example, in providing cinema complexes, sporting facilities and youth clubs, etc. Young children appear to be well catered for as well as the 18 year olds and over with hotels and other facilities, but the young people between 10 and 18 years do not seem to be provided for.

Mrs Beggs: That applies in almost every area.

Mr READ: I suppose the northern suburbs have experienced similar problems. However, steps are being taken now to rectify them.

Mr Bloffwitch: They are even getting a railway line. Are we getting one?

Mr READ: I will be addressing that shortly. Inasmuch as the northern suburbs experienced a rapid growth in earlier years, Mandurah can probably be compared with the northern suburbs, although Mandurah is a few years behind. The Government has recognised those needs but is only just starting to cater for them; that must happen in the entire Peel region.

Speaking of the northern suburbs brings me to my next point concerning what can emerge from a rapid growth rate. For example, I instance the possibility of Mandurah becoming part of the metropolitan area.

Mr Bloffwitch: It is very possible.

Mr READ: I have noticed with some concern that certain memoranda and pieces of information from Government departments seem to indicate that as a fait accompli. I

suppose it would be easy for Government departments to include Mandurah in the metropolitan area. However, at the moment it could be called a regional centre and Government departments have some obligation to provide regional offices in those areas. If Mandurah became part of the metropolitan area those departments could then argue that its needs were no greater than those of other suburbs. I have seen what has happened in Rockingham, which is the tail end of the metropolitan area.

Mr Pearce: Mr Speaker, I would object to that, if I were you.

Mr READ: I will call it the southern end of the metropolitan area, Mr Speaker. In certain instances, Rockingham has been overlooked in the provision of certain facilities and services. I am sure, Mr Speaker, that you would not entirely disagree with that. I would hate to see that happen in Mandurah. Being part of the metropolitan area brings some benefits; for example, a much improved transport system. Mandurah is not technically part of Transperth's area of operation, although it does have Transperth services which, considering the distance, are very good. If Mandurah became part of the metropolitan area, Transperth and the Government would be obliged to provide a more regular transport system. That brings me to my next point; that is, the rail link. Most people would be aware of the announcement in the Premier's economic package of a rail link to the Mandurah-Murray area by the turn of the century. To the people in the Peel region, that is a welcome move. At present, a bus service operates to that region.

Mr Bloffwitch: Do you think it will influence people's vote at the next election?

Mr READ: I do not think so; I think people have made up their minds based on the performance of the local member over the past three years. It is a fairly well known fact that people cannot be bought in the year prior to an election; they have already decided their vote. However, that will be ratified in 1993.

Mr Strickland interjected.

Mr READ: It is interesting that the Opposition keeps asking how my tennis lessons are going. It thinks this next election will be fought by way of a tennis match.

Mr Clarko: You would not do it.

Mr READ: That is right. That is my way of saying that I do not want to play.

Mr Pearce: Be fair. The Liberal preselection is a clever move to try to catch the retired vote by picking a retired candidate. He did not prove to be much good in Fremantle.

Mr READ: The member for Fremantle has told me that he has softened up this candidate.

Mr Lewis: You would fit all of your supporters in Fremantle in a phone box.

Mr READ: We did not go anywhere near losing Fremantle.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pearce: The Liberal Party has a penchant for aged candidates. It picked Doug Jecks in Floreat which indicates they have to be over 70 to gain Liberal Party preselection these days.

Mr Clarko: He would buy and sell you.

Mr READ: That is a great criteria for being preselected! In answer to the Opposition's interjections, I have no problem facing an election in my electorate. I have lived in the area for 20 years. I grew up and went to school in the area. Even though Mr Marshall may have performed well in the Fremantle election, he has only just moved to the Mandurah area and people in country areas - in the main, this is still a country electorate - like to see their members having some longstanding commitment to the area and I am sure that will show in the 1993 election.

Returning to the rail link, the Premier announced that a link to Mandurah would be in place by the turn of the century and that is welcome news.

Mr Strickland: Provide a tunnel at Fitzgerald Street first.

Mr READ: The member for Scarborough can argue about that and I will argue about the rail link to Mandurah. Before the rail link can go ahead, an extensive consultative process needs to be undertaken. The two choices for the link are heavy rail or light rail. Heavy rail provides a more direct and rapid link, in this case between Mandurah and Perth, whereas the

light rail option provides a link but enables the line to deviate to regional centres between Perth and Mandurah. Therefore, it is more flexible than the heavy rail link. Both options will have to be put to the people along the southern corridor between Fremantle and Mandurah because they will have to decide whether they would prefer a direct rapid link or a link that gives them access to other centres between Perth and Mandurah.

Determining the route has many implications. For instance, much of the land between Mandurah and Fremantle is privately owned. That may involve the possibility of private involvement in the rail link and developers may see it as an opportunity to open up land which may not have been available for subdivision for some time. Planning officers in the local authorities along that route including the Kwinana, Rockingham, Mandurah and Murray local authorities will have to put together a report indicating the point of view of local government to this development and proposed developments between Mandurah and Fremantle. The Government will then be able to use that information to plan the proposed route. Legislation to set aside a rail reserve cannot be introduced until the community has been consulted and the Government is sure that the route that will be adopted pleases all of the people in that southern corridor between Perth and Mandurah. I am aware that members of the Opposition, and particularly the member for Mandurah, are calling for an early introduction of the rail reserve legislation. I understand the eagerness of the member for Mandurah. However, if he considers everything that needs to be done between now and the Bill's introduction he will change his position and realise that if we do not consult with the community on such an important issue and seek its input, the proposal may be rightly criticised.

I have covered some of the areas that are of concern in the Peel region. I move now to some events in that region that have been very pleasing to me and to all residents of that region. Firstly I congratulate the South West Development Authority and the local councils in the Peel region for the terrific working relationship that they have developed. I am sure that the members representing the Boddington and Waroona areas will also agree that the councils are working well with the South West Development Authority after realising the authority was not established to undermine their activities but to support their aims and aspirations. That is no better demonstrated than by the President of the Murray Shire Council, Mr Michael Greenup, seeking to resolve a longstanding dispute over the boundaries between the City of Mandurah and the Shire of Murray, and, in particular, the boundary along the western foreshore of the Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary. At this stage the Murray Shire Council covers most of Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary. The boundary is the high water mark of the western foreshore. However, all the land on the western side of the Peel Inlet-Harvey estuarine system is in the City of Mandurah. If permission is required for a jetty or dredging over that part of the estuary, the Peel Inlet Management Authority must consult with the City of Mandurah and the Shire of Murray. That will create a ridiculous amount of paperwork for the staff of the local authorities. The Murray Shire President, Mr Mike Greenup, has foreshadowed a motion that he will move at his next council meeting that will recommend that the Murray Shire should initiate discussions with the City of Mandurah with a view to moving the boundary eastward so that it runs down the middle of the Peel Inlet and the Harvey Estuary. This has the full support of the City of Mandurah. However, it is yet to be put to the Murray Shire Council and it needs the agreement of both councils. Hopefully, those councillors will see the benefits of such a proposal and will agree to moving that boundary. The Minister for Local Government has made it clear that he will act only upon the agreement of both authorities. Once again, I congratulate Mike Greenup of the Shire of Murray.

The operations of the Mandurah City Council have improved in the last year or so under the leadership of Mayor Dudley Tuckey. Finally the City of Mandurah has joined with local authorities in the Peel area to become a member of the Peel ward in the Country Shire Councils Association. Previously, the City of Mandurah rejected any moves to become a member of that ward and that held up other councils' operations on a regional basis.

Fortunately, under the leadership of Dudley Tuckey, the City of Mandurah has left the Country Urban Councils Association and become part of the Peel ward of the Country Shire Councils Association. This has been welcomed by one and all in local government in the Peel region, and positive moves are being made towards a regional approach to all types of development in the region. Instead of local government authorities acting separately, there is

a concentrated effort to promote and push the Peel region by all local government authorities involved. The South West Development Authority played no small part in this process of bringing together local government authorities and as a result of its activities in the Peel office a better relationship has developed between local authorities. For the interest of members I advise them that a number of projects currently are being undertaken by the South West Development Authority to promote the Peel region and to facilitate growth in the region. A promotional video is being made of the Peel region which, fortunately, received support from the Department of State Development. This video should be available within the next three months and it promotes the Peel region from both the tourism and investment points of view. Rather than, for example, Mandurah, Murray, Boddington and Waroona developing separate videos on their individual localities the Peel region will be promoted as a whole.

The South West Development Authority has also been involved with the Department of Marine and Harbours in an approach to the Government to have the Mandurah Channel entrance kept open all year. Unfortunately, last year for a brief period the channel was not open and this had some effect on boating activities in the area. However, the South West Development Authority, the City of Mandurah and the Peel Inlet Management Authority are working with the Department of Marine and Harbours to rectify this problem. Of course, once the Dawesville Channel is completed - it is now three years from completion and is going full steam ahead - the emphasis on boating activity will shift from the middle of Mandurah to the Dawesville Channel site to take advantage of the permanently open entrance, the high clearance under the bridge for high masted vessels, and the marina.

I am very optimistic about the Peel region. A number of development projects are under way including \$1.2 million invested in Waroona by Clover Meats. In addition, \$400 million-worth of development projects are currently awaiting approval in the Mandurah-Murray area, \$57 million is being spent on the Dawesville Channel, and \$63 million on the North Dandalup Dam which will commence late this year. These projects are creating employment in the region and I am optimistic that the Government, with the new figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, will recognise the growing needs of the Peel region and act accordingly.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House).

[Continued on p 267.]

## STATEMENT - BY THE SPEAKER

### *Magistrate's Reported Comments on Parliament - Inappropriate Criticism*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Michael Barnett): I take this opportunity to draw members' attention to an article by Margot Lang on page 14 of today's *The West Australian*. In part it quotes magistrate Ken Moore, in the course of delivering a comment on the case before him, as saying -

"There are too many leaks. There is every day on television and radio thrown before us in great number evidence that there are leaks from all sources - from Parliament, the centre of government, right down to the lowest form of life - and it keeps on going.

"Maybe the lowest form of life is in Parliament . . . I don't know.

I have sought and received from the Crown Law Department a certified transcript of those remarks which confirms that these comments are accurately reported in this morning's *The West Australian*.

In my view those comments are highly inappropriate and ill considered and technically could easily amount to contempt of this Parliament. In fact, if those words were part of a considered statement, they would appear to be designed to eat away at the very foundation of our system of democracy. Although it seems to me that the House is robust enough nowadays to accept criticism from various sources from time to time, criticism which is directed towards the Parliament from the judiciary, perhaps in jest or maybe in ignorance, advantages no-one.

As I take great care to ensure that members of this House are aware that criticism of the

judiciary should be undertaken only by the proper methods and in appropriate circumstances so, in my opinion, should the judiciary regard the Parliament in a similar vein. I advise members that I will be writing today to the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr Con Zempilas, and I will send a copy of the letter to Magistrate Kenneth Moore to put these views to them as forcefully as possible on behalf of all members.

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - BY THE MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING**

### ***Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement, Third Supplementary Agreement Tabling - Amendment Assurance***

**MRS BEGGS** (Whitford - Minister for Racing and Gaming) [3.34 pm] - by leave: On 14 November 1991 I tabled the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement third supplementary agreement pursuant to clause 5(2) of the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement. Clause 5 permits the parties to the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement to vary the provisions of the agreement, but it requires any agreement negotiated between the parties to be laid on the Table of each House of Parliament within 12 sitting days of its execution. If the agreement is not disallowed, its provisions have effect from and after the expiry of 12 sitting days, which will be Thursday, 18 March 1992. The intended effect of the third supplementary agreement is twofold.

1. **Ownership of units in the Burswood Property Trust:** The amendment is to permit professional fund managers to invest funds under management in the Burswood Property Trust, provided those funds have a minimum Australian content of 80 per cent. A number of major professional fund managers in Australia are precluded from investing Australian funds under management in the Burswood Property Trust because they are subsidiaries of foreign corporations. For example, Bankers Trust Australia, the third largest manager of domestic funds in Australia, because of its links to the parent company in America, cannot invest funds in the Burswood Property Trust even though the vast majority of investors in its funds are Australian residents. I have accepted the argument that Bankers Trust Australia and other fund managers have no economic interest in their funds other than in a very limited and technical way as managers and, as such, should not be precluded from investing in the Burswood Property Trust.
2. **Two-up on Anzac Day:** The amendment to the agreement provides that two-up may be played in Returned Services League clubs and premises within a 200 kilometre radius of the Burswood Casino on Anzac Day. Clause 22 of the agreement gives the Burswood Property Trust, and hence the Burswood Casino, exclusive rights to conduct the game of two-up within a 200 kilometre radius of the Burswood Casino. Two-up can be played outside the 200 kilometre radius of the casino by bona fide organisations, including the RSL, on application and issue of a permit by the Gaming Commission.

The other parties to the agreement have consented to the amendment to enable two-up to be played within the 200 kilometre limit on Anzac Day provided that the venues approved for the games are premises ordinarily used for RSL social activities. The RSL has been consulted and has strongly supported the view that the playing of two-up on Anzac Day within a 200 kilometre radius of the casino be restricted to RSL clubs and premises. The amendment to the agreement for two-up to be played Statewide on Anzac Day has been canvassed widely in the community and has received overwhelming support.

Since I tabled the third supplementary agreement the Leader of the Opposition has raised concerns regarding clause 3(1)(a). To address these concerns, I have already given an assurance that I will introduce an amendment, the effect of which would be to limit to less than 20 per cent not only the number of investors in a major fund who are foreign persons, but also the value of investment in a fund held by foreign persons.

A great deal of time and effort has been applied to securing agreement of the Burswood Property Trust to permit the Returned Services League of Australia to conduct two-up on



Anzac Day. It is necessary for the amendment relating to two-up to come into effect before Anzac Day this year. Accordingly, following the passage of the third supplementary agreement, I intend to introduce a fourth supplementary agreement to effect the amendments to which I have referred. Making the amendment to the State agreement in this manner will ensure the amendment to the two-up provisions becomes effective from and after 18 March 1992. The State will then be in a position to permit the RSL to conduct two-up on Anzac Day, 25 April 1992. The amendment to the foreign persons provisions of the State agreement brought about by clause 3(1)(a) will not come into effect until the Burswood Property Trust deed is amended. This trust deed cannot be amended without my approval and I therefore give an undertaking to the House that I will not approve an amendment to the Burswood Property Trust deed until the passage of a fourth supplementary agreement.

**MR CLARKO** (Marmion) [3.39 pm]: The Liberal Party view is that the Burswood Casino should be owned by Australians, and that foreign ownership of this casino should not exceed 49.9 per cent. The original legislation was introduced to this Parliament by Hon Arthur Tonkin. He said quite deliberately that the Government at that time anticipated that ownership of the casino would be 72 per cent Australian, and principally Western Australian. The legislation states that foreign ownership shall not exceed 40 per cent, with the Minister having the power to increase this by an additional 18 per cent. I voted in favour of the establishment of the casino - not all my colleagues did so - because I felt that people have been able to bet on almost anything in Western Australia. In recent years one could bet on almost anything official except flies crawling up a wall. If one could bet on the dogs, football or soccer why should one start to distinguish between one form of gambling and another? I was prepared to accept the Burswood Casino although there were many elements of it about which my colleagues and I were dubious. Arthur Tonkin deliberately put to this House and the people of Western Australia - and I think Des Dans was Minister at the time -

**Mrs Beggs:** He was.

**Mr CLARKO:** - that the casino would be Australian owned and overwhelmingly Western Australian owned. However, this Government very quickly agreed to increase the 40 per cent foreign ownership to 58 per cent. We now see a situation where, because of the various forms of trust and the like, 80 per cent plus of the people involved in the trust will be acceptable because they are Australian but they will not have 80 per cent of the ownership. I have spoken to the Minister about this matter. She has told me that this figure is possibly based on numbers of people involved. For instance, if one wanted to have a trust involving an investment of \$1 000 008 by 10 members, eight of whom were Australian, and if each Australian put in \$1 and the two foreign owners put in \$500 000 each, that would result in \$1 million being foreign and \$8 being local investment. On the first reading of what has been put before us that would fit the 80 per cent factor. The Liberal Party says that factor should relate to money.

**Mrs Beggs:** Eighty per cent of the value?

**Mr CLARKO:** Yes. The Minister says she has been advised - although she has not received confirmation in black and white - that my argument does not stand up and that the trusts are formed on an equal partnership basis so that if a trust involved 10 per cent and \$1 million, each member would have to put in \$100 000. This matter should be talked about in money terms, with the number of people involved coming second.

**Mrs Beggs:** I have no difficulty with that. I am agreeing to it.

**Mr CLARKO:** We are unhappy with the 58 per cent foreign ownership of the casino.

**Mr Bloffwitch:** It may as well be 100 per cent if it is to be 58 per cent.

**Mr CLARKO:** Yes. It appears at first glance, as the member for Floreat said earlier, that 99 per cent of the casino could be owned by foreigners if ownership were about numbers and not about money. The Liberal Party believes that the figure of 49.9 per cent foreign ownership should not be exceeded. We have already reached a figure of 58 per cent foreign ownership. The Minister has received advice that this matter is related to the money invested.

As an example let us take Mr Dempster, who is at the heart of this matter. He has decided to sell his approximately 25 per cent holding in the casino. If one takes away 80 per cent of that 25 per cent one is left with about five per cent. The best figure given to me by the

Government is that if the 80 per cent figure is related to money, the remaining 20 per cent holding relates to five per cent of the operation of Burswood which would raise the minimum foreign ownership from 58 per cent to 63 per cent. The Liberal Party supports only a 49.9 per cent foreign ownership. The Minister has problems at the moment and has told me it is impossible to sell this nearly 25 per cent of the casino to Australians.

Mrs Beggs: Nobody came forward. The people who were interested in purchasing it were not Australians.

Mr CLARKO: I understand the Minister's position; she has been asked to solve the problem. The only problem is that in solving that problem she is contradicting the position taken by my party by increasing the percentage of foreign ownership.

Mrs Beggs: That is not true. When I first wrote to your leader he said he that did not have any difficulty with that. He also conveyed that approach to Bankers Trust Australia Ltd.

Mr CLARKO: Did the Minister have a direct conversation with my leader, or was there just correspondence.

Mrs Beggs: I have a letter.

Mr CLARKO: My leader has told me that he said to the Minister, "Give us something specific in writing about the agreement." The Minister has not done that. I am not attacking the Minister for not doing that. However, my leader says he never received specific details from the Minister. The Minister may have good grounds for what she is saying. I can tell her categorically the position of the Liberal Party, with which my leader agrees and has agreed since it was first discussed with me as shadow Minister for Racing and Gaming, is that we want the majority ownership of the Burswood Casino to be Australian. In a cloud cuckoo land situation I would like it to be Western Australian owned. However, I will settle for Australian owned. The Minister is proposing today that we should move further away from what we want; that is, we should move from 58 per cent foreign ownership to at least 63 per cent foreign ownership. When we return to Government in 12 months one of the first things we will do is negotiate with the casino to move towards majority Australian ownership. I understand that the Minister has been given advice that that may be difficult to do.

Mr Taylor: How will the member for Marmion do that? He is making a heroic claim, but how will he do it?

Mr CLARKO: I will not speak to the Deputy Premier because he seeks to cut me off half way through a word, which is typical of his Kalgoorlie style. "We will rough 'em up and kick the goals later." We are prepared to move some way along this line in the spirit of resolving the problem before us. I do not think there is a great difference between the Minister's view and mine. I believe that if I were at a nightclub with the Minister on official business - obviously with my wife - and I asked her, "Are you happy to have this casino in foreign hands or would you rather it were in Australian hands," after she had had half a glass of Chablis and soda she would say to me, "Well, Jim, it is probably a good thing that it be in local or Australian hands." I believe that even the Deputy Premier, who would have had 20 stubbies at that stage, would say something similar. I do not think a huge gap exists here. I have no doubt that the people of Western Australia do not want a situation where step by step the ownership of the Burswood Casino is increasingly in foreign hands, good as those foreign hands may be. I am not trying to reflect on foreign owners; I am merely putting our view. I do not think the Government representatives, when at a night club or the local club, would be miles away from that approach either. The Government is trying to solve a difficult problem easily.

The matter to which the Minister has asked us to agree has two parts. The first part is to increase the foreign ownership of Burswood Casino. The second part is to allow two-up in Returned Services League clubs on Anzac Day. As I understand it, the Minister is saying, "Let this go through. I will not proceed with the Burswood bit because I want the bit about two-up in RSL clubs because I have already agreed to that." Although I have great respect for the Minister's integrity, it would be very unbusinesslike and unparliamentary for this House to agree to what the Minister is saying; namely, "I have put up two things - (a) and (b). I want to proceed with (b). Let (a) and (b) go through but I will not proceed with (a)." I do not believe that any respectable person could accept that, despite our regard for the Minister's veracity and integrity.

In regard to the problem that the Minister has apparently got herself into with two-up, I do not think the Minister can have any real argument against our disallowing this matter in the way that the member for Floreat is proposing. This matter must be disallowed, and the Minister can immediately, if she wants to, turn a blind eye to two-up in RSL clubs on Anzac Day. She would not be the first Minister in a Government of this State to turn a blind eye to something. I remember a poor fellow who came from my lovely home town of Cottesloe who was brought before the courts and punished unfairly and improperly a year or two ago for conducting a two-up game on Anzac Day. The Government has closed its eyes to the brothels in Hay Street in Kalgoorlie and people tell me that brothels even exist in the metropolitan area, so the Minister could turn a blind eye to the playing of two-up on Anzac Day. I know that when the Minister's proposition that two-up be allowed in RSL clubs on Anzac Day comes up in this Chamber and in the other Chamber, every member of Parliament will agree to that, and if 25 April, or the day on which we have a public holiday to celebrate Anzac Day, comes up before this amendment has completed its passage through the House, I do not believe there is any reasonable chance that any reasonable man or woman will take legal action about that matter. Therefore, the question of two-up should stand on its own feet. It is not appropriate that it be linked with the ownership of the casino.

The Liberal Party is opposed to an ever increasing foreign ownership of the Burswood Casino.

Mrs Beggs: Will you move to disallow it?

Mr CLARKO: If the Leader of the House would agree to our moving to disallow it, I think this Chamber would disallow it. We cannot do it because the Address-in-Reply must take precedence. That is the only thing that stands in the way of this legislation.

#### *Standing Orders Suspension*

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Leader of the House) [3.53 pm]: I move, without notice -

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the member for Floreat to address the House on the subject of the ministerial statement for a period of not more than 10 minutes.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

#### *Debate Resumed*

MR COWAN (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [3.56 pm]: The National Party listened with interest to the Minister's statement. Members of this House would know that we have a great deal of concern about foreign ownership. My colleague the deputy leader of the National Party and member for Stirling has given notice that he will again introduce his legislation which deals with a register of foreign ownership of property in Western Australia, so I do not think that our bona fides can be questioned in any way. This issue requires careful consideration for the simple reason outlined by the Minister; that is, that Bankers Trust Australia Ltd is a foreign company that is investing Australian money, and for that reason an exception needs to be made. The National Party has agreed to that exception in the variation of the agreement that was introduced in the form of a regulation, and the Leader of the Liberal Party has agreed to it, subject to a further amendment which allows not only for the 80:20 ratio to be expressed in monetary terms but also for it to be expressed in the numerical terms of those people who are unit holders in that trust. When that was pointed out to me by the Leader of the Opposition, I agreed with him, and I have already conveyed to the Minister the position of the National Party; namely, that it has agreed to the earlier variation, and it also agrees with what has been put by the Leader of the Opposition. I am pleased that the Minister has announced that it is her intention to bring about that fourth variation and that she will not agree to any changes in the trust until such time as that fourth agreement has been brought before the Parliament.

The issue of two-up on special days such as Anzac Day needs to be addressed, along with the right of the casino - and this was written into the Burswood Casino Act - to conduct gambling within certain areas of Western Australia.

Mrs Beggs: Certain games within certain areas.

Mr COWAN: Yes. The concept that people who want to conduct certain games within 200 kilometres of the casino are required to get approval from the people responsible for the

casino is no longer valid and needs to be reviewed. It is a nonsense that people who conduct a special event such as horseracing cannot get a licence to conduct a two-up game after that event has occurred. That issue may be addressed by the member for Floreat when she introduces her private member's Bill. That remains to be seen when we are made aware of the contents of the legislation. We acknowledge that Anzac Day is a special day, and that two-up is a special national game, but irrespective of whether we are for or against gambling the fact is that the special day has been structured in this way over a long time. It goes back to the traditions of the diggers who came back from Gallipoli and what they did on the boats on the return journey. It seems to me that the Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided Parliament with a practical solution. On that basis the National Party, while very conscious of the amount of foreign ownership of casinos and so on, is prepared to support the measure.

**DR CONSTABLE (Floreat) [4.01 pm]:** I would like to thank members for giving me the opportunity to speak on this matter. I accept the undertaking of the Minister for Racing and Gaming on this issue. However, other matters are involved. I refer to the editorial in *The West Australian* of 17 February this year. It referred to the whole sorry saga of the Burswood Casino and its ownership. One point made in the editorial was that it lamented that not enough scrutiny had occurred on the previous amendments, comments and undertakings regarding foreign ownership. Currently we are being asked to allow a further amendment to the agreement to pass tomorrow on the twelfth day after being laid on the Table of the House. Everyone has admitted the amendment contains a loophole; that it is faulty; that it is wrong. On those grounds alone it should be disallowed, and I would have hoped that the Minister would support that disallowance. That leaves in my mind some queries. Why the urgency? Why let something faulty go through?

**Mrs Beggs:** My only interest is two-up and the RSL; the rest is inconsequential to me.

**Dr CONSTABLE:** I know it is about the two-up. I understand that, but I am talking about proper procedures - in the sense that if something is faulty it should not be allowed to pass through Parliament.

**Mrs Beggs:** I agree with the member but I have agreement in principle from both the National Party and the Leader of the Opposition on the amendment. It was not until after I read it in the newspaper that I heard originally from a journalist that Mr MacKinnon had changed his mind.

**Mr Clarko:** We are not sure that is true.

**Mrs Beggs:** It is true. I have Mr MacKinnon's letter here.

**Dr CONSTABLE:** In scrutinising the matter I raised a question about the sale of units in the past year. This is not the time to go into detail on this, but when something is faulty and contains a loophole it raises suspicion about why something with a loophole should go through.

**Mrs Beggs:** The units talked about are actually 99.58 per cent Australian; 95.84 per cent, 96.42 per cent Australian.

**Dr CONSTABLE:** Putting that aside, I am talking about a principle. I am talking about how this can be done. Having said that, I appreciate that the Minister has given an undertaking. However, I still have doubts about the position in which she has been placed. She has already signed a third supplementary agreement. If it passes through Parliament tomorrow, on the twelfth day the Parliament will be saying that it is okay, but where does that leave the Minister?

**Mrs Beggs:** It is the same situation as anything which must be ratified by the Executive Council. We sign lots of things but until they are ratified they do not become law.

**Dr CONSTABLE:** I know that, but it still leave doubts in my mind. It may be that the Minister is placed in a legal position where the Parliament has allowed something and the Minister has signed an amended agreement but where other people party to the third agreement may want to put some pressure on the Minister to sign the trust deed. Those people will have seen that Parliament has approved this and that the Minister has signed a piece of paper. My discussions with the Minister indicate that that will not happen, but we are looking at procedures which place the Minister in a difficult situation. I appreciate what the Minister is trying to do but this is the wrong way to go about it.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - THIRD DAY***Motion*

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR BLOFFWITCH** (Geraldton) [4.06 pm]: Listening to the Premier yesterday I was amazed when she commented on the Liberal Party's Fightback WA package and referred to revenue received by the State from the Federal Government. Her point was that the Liberal Party package recommends a five per cent decrease in that funding. She then said that we could not work in that way. Perhaps the Premier did not look at the same Budget papers as I did. We already receive 50 per cent of our total revenue from the Federal Government. How can the Premier say that the Opposition does not take that into consideration?

I will now address the policies contained in the two documents. Some I note with pleasure, others with displeasure. Both documents contain a proposal to undertake a feasibility study for a standard gauge railway to Bunbury. I should remind the Government that 20 years ago in my electorate a railway line was pulled up between Mt Magnet and Mullewa. We should consider the cost of that to the Geraldton area because ore must be delivered to Esperance.

**Mr Pearce:** Who pulled up the railway?

**Mr BLOFFWITCH:** Whether it was the Liberal Party or the Labor Party does not matter. I have read that when the line was pulled up a promise was made in this place - and this side of the House was not in Government then - that the future of Geraldton would not be jeopardised; the Geraldton situation would always be considered. However, that does not appear to have been the case because when the mining company's preferred option was to send the ore through Geraldton, the company asked for an upgrading of the road but it was told to pay for it itself. The company had no alternative but to ship the ore through Esperance. It is all very well having a feasibility study on the standard gauge railway to Bunbury, but what about a study for such a railway in my area to get the exports from that part of the world out of the country? That area has contributed handsomely to the development of the State.

I turn now to payroll tax. The Government has decided to increase the payroll tax threshold by 10 per cent over the next 12 months. The WA Advantage package will increase the payroll tax threshold to \$325 000, yet the package states the Government supports small business and that it will do everything it can to enhance small business. I have heard comments from the other side of the Chamber that only big business pays payroll tax. However, a threshold figure of \$325 000 would mean that a husband and wife business with something like 12 employees would enter the threshold and have to pay payroll tax. Many businesses employ 12, 13, or 15 employees and they will be paying payroll tax. In comparison with Western Australia the threshold for payroll tax in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania is \$500 000. I notice that in the next two months Queensland will raise its threshold to \$600 000. What is Western Australia doing? It is raising its threshold from the lowest figure in Australia to \$325 000. The Liberal Party's Fightback WA package, which will operate in conjunction with the Federal Opposition's Fightback package, will abolish payroll tax entirely.

**Mr P.J. Smith:** Is the member for Geraldton betting on the Federal Opposition getting into Government and abolishing payroll tax?

**Mr BLOFFWITCH:** What does the Western Australian Government do when it receives \$2.5 billion from the Commonwealth Government to help make up the \$5 billion needed to run the State? Does the Government use that money? To say that it does not would be nothing short of stupidity; it is half the State's Budget. If a change in the taxation system removes an ogre of a \$585 million tax, which was the State Government's Budget estimate for the coming year, that must be a plus not only for this State but also for the business which are affected in this State. I can recall the Premier's saying at a Premiers' Conference that she was going to ask for money to get rid of not only payroll tax but also stamp duty on mortgages. Those are the very things that members of both parties agree we should attack. I agree that situation is very difficult for a State Government, but for members opposite to say a scheme that will allow a Government to remove some of those taxes is folly is nothing but a joke. I have heard that 17 000 people will be able to find employment as a result of the Fightback package, but when I divide \$600 million by \$20 000 the number of people who

could find employment is 30 000. Members opposite cannot say that would not make a difference to the unemployment queue. If I divide \$600 million by \$14 000 for juveniles, that would be jobs for 43 000 juveniles; so we might not have any unemployed youth. If I did not have to pay \$4 500 a month on payroll tax I could employ at least a couple of juniors and we could certainly use them. It is nothing short of ridiculous for members opposite to ridicule a proposal that will reduce unemployment. I then heard members opposite express the folly that payroll tax affects only 10 per cent of businesses in Western Australia; but they fail to add the next sentence: That 10 per cent employs 60 per cent of the employees in this State. We do not hear those facts or anything that might be helpful. The Fightback WA package states that Western Australia has 670 000 small businesses; that is an incredible number. What is the Government doing to encourage small business to employ one more person? I know that the Fightback package will remove payroll tax for 60 per cent of the employees of this State. I know the Fightback package will reduce the training levy, which is an iniquitous damned provision. If a firm does not spend a certain amount on training it is penalised. The Government takes the money and does not give the firm a tax deduction. What a beautiful system!

Mr D.L. Smith: Does the member for Geraldton know that 90 per cent of small business does not pay payroll tax?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: The Minister for South-West has just come into the Chamber; I have already made the startling point that the 10 per cent who pay payroll tax employ 60 per cent of all employees in this State. Did the Minister know that? I also gave the example that to pay payroll tax at the \$300 000 threshold level one does not need any more than a dozen employees.

Mr D.L. Smith: Is the member for Geraldton seriously suggesting that 10 per cent of small business in Western Australia employs 60 per cent of the people?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Yes.

Mr D.L. Smith: The member for Geraldton is including Alcoa and Worsley.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Do they pay payroll tax?

Mr D.L. Smith: Of course they do, but they are not small businesses.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I spoke to John Goldie who has a large transport and excavation operation. He pays \$200 000 a month in payroll tax. He has categorically stated, not only to me, but also to other people in the State, that if payroll tax were removed he would put the equivalent amount into wages. I have heard that statement from many large employers. Not all of it may go to wages, but if only half of that amount were paid on wages Western Australia would be better off.

Mr D.L. Smith: Where do you think the State Government puts 90 per cent of that money.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Probably into WA Inc, Rothwells and a few other things.

Mr D.L. Smith: It goes to pay the wages of the public sector.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: All right, but under the Fightback package if sales tax and the training levy were refunded by the Government the money could go into those things. All the Opposition will do is change the system. The training levy is iniquitous as the people who require training have been receiving training for years.

Mr Wilson: Do you trust a Federal Government to do that?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Yes, I would trust a Liberal Government. I do not think I could trust the Federal Government we have at the moment.

Mr Wilson: I do not think Federal Governments change that much when it comes to reimbursing taxation.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: We know what is happening at present. We will have to wait and see what will happen in the future.

Mr Wilson: The same things happened under coalition Governments, my friend.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Similar things did happen, but coalition Governments in the past did not have a Fightback package. Whether the Minister for Health likes a goods and services

tax or components of it, the philosophy of any system that encourages people to earn and taxes what one spends must be right. What will give me great joy when it all comes true is seeing members opposite sitting on this side of the House and the Opposition sitting on the Government benches.

Mr Wilson: The member for Geraldton might have to explain why he is not getting money back.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: That will be our problem.

Both the WA Advantage and the Fightback WA packages propose to improve our existing airports. Bunbury airport will be upgraded and Broome will get an international airport. I can only applaud both packages for that. For too long Broome, which is certainly the pearl of the Western Australia coast as a holiday mecca -

Mr Graham: Why do you say that?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I have been to Broome many times. I have been to Cairns and most of the exotic places in the world and the climate in Broome and type of resort at Cable Beach is capable of attracting tourists from all over the world. Cairns' new international airport has attracted more tourists and an international terminal at Broome will enhance Broome as a holiday destination.

Mr Graham: Does the member for Geraldton know there is an international airport in Port Hedland?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Mr Graham must have experienced the run between Sandfire and Broome and it is not a hop, skip and a jump.

Mr Graham: It is about the same distance as that between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock and no-one has ever suggested we put an international airport at Ayers Rock.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I suppose they have not, but I note how tourism has increased in Cairns since the international airport was built there. Many Japanese and American tourists visit Cairns.

Mr Graham: How has the international airport at Port Hedland affected tourism in the Pilbara?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: If an international airport were built at Broome more tourists would be attracted to the Pilbara.

Mr Graham: Would you suggest moving the airport from Port Hedland to Broome?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: No; the one at Port Hedland could remain but another one could be built at Broome. That is an excellent idea. I am pleased that the member for Pilbara would prefer to have an international airport in Broome and not Port Hedland because it shows how out of sync he is with the way most Western Australians think.

Mr Graham: I unequivocally support the international airport in Port Hedland and have done so for 15 years.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I do not suggest for one moment that the international airport at Port Hedland should be removed. However, it is an excellent idea to build a new international airport at Broome.

Both documents also outline what is necessary to deregulate the road transport industry. I support the abolition of the permit system. It is long overdue and I am pleased to see that it is addressed in both packages. In reading both packages I was alarmed at the Government's record on small business. I have received a letter from Mr Pirone, a small developer and builder in Geraldton. It is a pity the Minister for Water Resources is not in the House. Every time Mr Pirone builds, and sewerage is not connected, he must pay for the septic, leach drains and the connection to the sewerage system. This only happens to builders building multistorey residences. They are called headworks charges and future sewerage charges. People have shown me bills ranging from \$4 000 to \$20 000 for these services. Even Mr Deputy Speaker, during his contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, asked why building was not occurring in Perth. It is not occurring because the associated costs are so high. The logic is that money allows work to be done today in other areas and it provides ongoing funding. This is another example of small business being sucked dry of every cent

to help the Government with capital works. It is little wonder that the small business sector suffers so badly under the hammer of Government charges.

I have also received telephone calls from one of Geraldton's shipbuilders who employs about 25 people. If one visits ASI Engineering Pty Ltd or other shipbuilders in Perth one will note that they work on a subcontract basis. Hence, when they have plenty of work people can be employed. The same principle applies in the construction and building industries. About seven months ago the fellow who complained to me was approached by people from the payroll tax department who said that the Federal Government had rejected his prescribed payment system claim and that he was due to pay payroll tax on wages that he had paid his employees. Soon after people from workers' compensation contacted him and said that because the people working for him were considered employees he would have to pay up. He was served with a writ to pay \$120 000, which included fines, penalties and so on in back taxes and workers' compensation. I asked him what happened to other shipbuilders. He said that he had been told that if the ships were exported you did not have to pay. However, if a builder sells in the local market the taxation department jumps on him. Is that the way to help small business? Is it right that companies with larger contracts at Cockburn Sound can operate under subcontracts and not pay the same taxes but that small boat builders must pay? Commonsense should prevail.

Mr Graham: Wouldn't it be good.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I hope that it does prevail. The shipbuilder in question was told that if he did not pay up his business would be put into liquidation. Mr Bromley is his name and he owns Geraldton Shipbuilders. Members can contact him and check that what I am saying is true. He was told that his business would be put into liquidation unless he agreed to repay \$120 000. How does that builder compete with Perth shipbuilders who are allowed to operate on subcontract bases? It is too ridiculous for words!

Mr Graham: It has nothing to do with whether you export them or not.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: My point exactly. How can statements like that be made?

Mr Graham: Did you obtain a statement from the State Taxation Department which says it would do that?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I heard from the State Taxation Department that if a builder is allowed by the Commonwealth system to pay a prescribed payment system tax he is allowed to operate under a subcontract basis. The department decides that. Mr Bromley was subcontracting long before the PPS system was introduced; yet, that is what prevails. The revenue involved is State Government money, not Federal Government money. A State Government Minister introduced that edict to ruin subcontractors.

Another problem which has arisen in Geraldton is that of the emergency petrol roster system which operates within the metropolitan area. The Minister for Consumer Affairs has done more to destroy that system than anyone.

Mr Leahy: Don't you support free enterprise? Why do you want a roster system?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I am a supporter of free enterprise.

Mr Graham: You can't have it both ways.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I can have it both ways. If we are talking about free enterprise, why should I have to pay a licence fee? Free enterprise is not about doing what we please. It seems that the member for Northern Rivers has no idea how the business works.

Mr Leahy: I operate a service station in Carnarvon and we don't have a roster system.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Do you not pay a licence fee for the pumps to the shire?

Mr Leahy: I am a small businessman and operate a service station.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: The proprietors of service stations in Geraldton and in the metropolitan area prefer a roster system. Members on both sides of this House agreed unanimously to the findings of a Royal Commission which was established to look into the operation of service stations and which came out in favour of a roster system.

It appears that a lessee of a service station approached the Minister for Consumer Affairs and advised her that there would be a road change in the vicinity of his service station within the



next 12 months to two years which may affect his business. He asked for permission to open his service station on Sundays until the change occurs to allow him to make a little more money. The Minister said that his request was reasonable and now he trades on Sundays and other service stations nearby close. This person has a distinct advantage over the other service station proprietors in that area. The Minister's reply when she was approached about this was that it was her decision and that is all there is to it.

Mr Leahy: You should be allowed to open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I did not say that that is what the dealers in Geraldton wanted me to draw to the attention of the House.

What is the difference between that and the Minister giving me permission to operate a licence-free taxi? This issue is nothing short of scandalous and the Minister has total disregard for the small business sector which operates within the confines of the law, and they should all be treated in the same way. If members opposite do not agree with me it is a sad reflection on their supposed support for small business.

Mr Leahy: I would like to trade when I want to. The hours should be open.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Would the member like a service station near his to be granted permission to open on Sundays when he is not given the same permission?

Mr Leahy: You want to make sure everyone closes. Don't you want to encourage tourists to visit Geraldton?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: We do and we do not have any problems in Geraldton. Does the member believe that people do not visit Perth because there is a service station roster system? He probably does and it is indicative of the dream world in which he lives.

Several members interjected.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: In the minutes remaining to me I will take the opportunity to refer to the Select Committee on the Official Corruption Commission Act. Together with two Government members, a National Party member and an Independent, I served on that committee. I have heard some adverse comments about its establishment.

I now understand the amount of work involved in serving on a Select Committee. After reading hundreds of reports and listening to evidence given by witnesses I can understand the sentiments of members when no notice is taken of the final reports of Select Committees. However, I enjoyed serving on the committee and there is no better way to become well informed on a subject. Members will be aware that the report has been tabled in the House. The Official Corruption Commission will certainly have stronger powers when the necessary amendments are made to the legislation. An amendment to section 12 of the Act will compel senior public servants to report any wrongdoing within the Public Service. Most members would think that that is a natural occurrence, but on studying the legislation one will find that it prohibits any such information being leaked from a department. In fact, such action is considered a breach of departmental ethics. The parameters of the legislation have been widened and protection will be afforded to whistleblowers. It will also endeavour to prevent the abuse by the media of people being investigated. The committee addressed the issues presented to it and I thank the House for giving me the opportunity to serve on it.

MR SHAVE (Melville) [4.36 pm]: I will cover a number of issues in my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate. First, I will refer to Government taxation. I read with interest the Premier's comments about containing taxation levels within Western Australia, but I will raise a couple of issues concerning my electors, particularly pensioners.

Recently I was contacted by an elderly pensioner who related an unfortunate experience. He was self-supporting and had come to live in this country a few years ago. He has now been advised by the State Taxation Department that a new tax rule will apply to pensioners who receive overseas pensions. It appears that the Government has introduced a rule whereby provisional tax will be paid by seniors who have retired in Australia and who are living on overseas pensions. This year they have to pay their normal taxation plus provisional tax for the next financial year. These people are distraught because of the implications involved and many of them are living from week to week and are encountering great difficulties.

The Government can say that it is a mere administrative measure, but to a person on a limited

income it is a very severe financial burden. Most seniors are living on extremely limited incomes and this is another effort on the Government's part to try to balance the books.

Mr D.L. Smith: It is an area that the Federal Government does not get right very often.

Mr SHAVE: Absolutely. I have not seen any measure taken by the Federal or State Governments to try to address this problem.

Mr D.L. Smith: I have written numerous letters to the Federal Government on this issue.

Mr SHAVE: I would be pleased to receive copies of any of that correspondence because there are many people in my electorate who are very concerned about what has occurred. Provisional tax should not be applicable to them. I understand that a pensioner can earn \$8 500 before he incurs any taxes. In the current climate \$200 a week seems to be the minimum income for a pensioner; a fairer income would be \$300 a week before he is required to fill in an income tax return.

Mr D.L. Smith: I would not disagree with that.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SHAVE: I found a lot of those comments enlightening, but I will return to my speech. Another area of concern in my electorate is that of housing density. In Palmyra the Homeswest administration is planning to build two sets of 13 units on two, three block sites. What it seeks to do is in direct contravention of the wishes of the people in the area who have been fighting to retain decent residential zoning for several years. The Melville Shire Council has experienced ongoing difficulties with this Government when attempting to get suitable housing density in its areas. I suggest to Government members that by continuing to demand that councils and residents subscribe to the Government's policy of heavy housing densities they are not endearing themselves to the people in my electorate and other electorates. In Palmyra Homeswest is planning to provide only one parking bay for each two units. That is clearly ridiculous and assumes that only every other tenant will have a car.

Mr Pearce: Or every tenant will have half a car.

Mr SHAVE: Even the Minister for the Environment would know that is not a satisfactory situation because people cannot operate a car with only two wheels or half an engine. Nevertheless, the result of this inadequate planning will be the creation of a planning nightmare in my electorate. Road developments will have to be adjusted, illegal parking will occur on verges, traffic congestion will occur, streets will have to be realigned, and an ongoing problem will be created. The council is suggesting one thing but the Government is over the top with its dictatorial approach.

Mr Strickland: Do they not have to provide parking in the unit structure?

Mr Lewis: No, people park in the street.

Mr SHAVE: That is the point I am making.

Mr Strickland: They do not get away with that in the City of Stirling.

Mr Lewis: It is appealed against and the Minister upholds the appeal.

Mr SHAVE: The council constantly lodges appeals.

Mr Strickland: The Minister has left the House.

Mr SHAVE: The Minister does not accept the views of any council. I have been told that by my local shire.

Mr Pearce: As Planning Minister I routinely overturned Homeswest appeals.

Mr SHAVE: Perhaps we should transfer the Minister to another portfolio as he is looking shaky in environment; a shift might do him good.

Mr Lewis: He is running out of portfolios. He has not done a good job in any of them.

Mr SHAVE: No. I was listening to a debate this morning between the member for Warren and the Minister and it was clear that the member for Warren was winning that debate conclusively. Another area where ratepayers have a problem is Attadale, a fine suburb full of fine people and some good Liberal supporters. The City of Melville has not supported

high density housing in Attadale. The people there have paid considerable sums of money for their properties and are concerned that density figures may be changed. Unlike Government members, they do not like their children playing on footpaths and prefer them to have lawns. They recognise the fact that a tree near a house is desirable to advance the Government's policy of discouraging people staying in the sun and contracting skin cancer. The people of Attadale like to sit under a tree or have a barbecue under a tree. Under Homeswest's policy in many cases there will be insufficient room for either a barbecue or a tree and if a tree is planted and the barbecue built there will be no room for people. That is an example of selective discrimination against people who wish to have a barbecue.

People in my electorate wrote to me about the Government's forcing its will on local authorities. I wrote to the Minister, Mr D.L. Smith, on 21 January pointing out the problems and concerns related to high density housing on which the Government is intent. I received quite a long response from the Minister in which he talked about a 17.5 per cent zoning figure in Attadale and said that the Government had given much consideration to densities and requirements of people in the suburb of Attadale and in the City of Melville generally. In the penultimate paragraph of his letter the Minister said that the Melville Council had been progressively downcoding substantial areas of the municipality, which ran counter to the policy of containing urban sprawl applying elsewhere in the metropolitan area. The council has been advised that rather than relying on minimum density standards, more attention should be paid to housing designs and layouts. The Minister was suggesting that the City of Melville was out of touch with other shires in the metropolitan area. That is not the case; it is in touch with those other shires. In fact, the majority of those shires support the City of Melville. The people who sit on the councils in those other shires support the concept of lower density housing because the people who elect them support that concept. Those people sit on their councils in an honorary capacity giving a lot of their time to do so. They put forward the views expressed by the people they represent. In this case the State Government is saying it is not interested in what the shire or the people say and will tell the people what is good for them. That is no way to run a Government.

The same situation arises in relation to daylight saving about which the Government says it does not care what the people say; it says, "This is what we will do." This morning the Minister for the Environment had the temerity to suggest that he would support the referendum on daylight saving.

Mr Pearce: I will vote yes, in fact.

Mr SHAVE: The only reason the Minister is now supporting it is that he is confident that daylight saving will be rejected.

Mr Pearce: Not necessarily. I think it will pass, but the vote will be very close.

Mr Fred Tubby: What about the dairy farmers in your electorate?

Mr Pearce: They are opposed to it, so they will vote no.

Mr SHAVE: The Minister should liaise more with his constituents, because the common view in my electorate is that there will be a no vote on the referendum.

Mr Pearce: Electorates vary. As the member for Roleystone points out, there are dramatically different views in my electorate. People such as dairy farmers, and farmers generally, are very much opposed to daylight saving and people in the metropolitan area are very much in favour. They will all vote their own way, and the majority will decide what the result is to be.

Mr SHAVE: Thanks to us. Would the Minister have recommended a referendum if we had not insisted on it?

Mr Pearce: I voted on it in the House.

Mr SHAVE: I refer again to housing, and want to raise a subject of real concern to me; that is, the Government's active discrimination within my area towards Homeswest tenants having the right to purchase their own homes. I recently received a letter from the Minister for Housing dated 14 November 1991 in which he said -

Dear Mr Shave,

The Premier recently announced the New Rental Sales scheme to tenants. The

scheme will offer tenants the chance to buy their rental homes and will have more social benefits for the local communities by changing the mix of tenants and private owners in selected areas.

I do not know whether the Minister was implying some sort of discrimination against rental tenants as opposed to private owners. I thought the current Government had a philosophy that all people were equal, but what is the Government saying now? In the context of this paragraph, is it saying that people who rent Homeswest properties are less socially acceptable than those who privately own their homes? I cannot come to terms with the scheme's having more social benefits. However, accepting that the Minister now acknowledges that people would rather own their homes than rent them, I went on to read the remainder of the Minister's letter, which referred to cash assistance, deposit assistance, value of improvements, special offers - that was interesting; I thought I was down at the local car yard - and finance: Private finance, Keystart finance, and Start-a-Home finance. The Minister's letter then said -

Homeswest expects to sell 500 rented properties in the first full year of the scheme's operation, generating revenue of nearly \$25 million. . . .

For more information with regard to The Right Move initiatives please call the hotline . . .

Then I saw the document headed "Selected Areas", which said -

To ensure Homeswest assets are properly cared for the scheme will target the specific areas of;

The list began with Armadale, Ashfield, Balcatta, Balga, Belmont, Calista, Cloverdale, Coolbellup, Eden Hill, Embleton, Girrawheen, Hamilton Hill, and so on. Can you believe, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the first 18 areas on that list are in seats held by the Australian Labor Party? Surprise, surprise! Mandurah is on the list; that seat used to be held by the Australian Labor Party. Then there are Medina, Midland/Midvale, Nollamara and North Beach. Here is something for us - Orelia, Parmelia, Queens Park, Redcliffe, Swan View and Wilson. Members might say that the Australian Labor Party holds more seats where there are Homeswest tenants, and that is a valid argument, in part, but let us look at the State seat of Melville, which the Australian Labor Party does not hold. The suburbs of Melville, Willagee and Hilton all contain Homeswest houses. How can members opposite discriminate against people living in those suburbs and deny them the right and opportunity to purchase their own houses?

I received a letter recently from a Mr and Mrs Willcox in Willagee which said -

Dear Sir,

Our conversation by phone enquiring into the above address. We would like you to enquire to Homeswest if my wife and I could purchase the property at 26 Greig Street, Willagee as this house was available to purchase some years ago to my wife, who at the time was divorced, but at that stage she was in no position to purchase the house. She has been in the house 10-12 years and we have done a lot of improvements at the property. This is one of the many reasons we would like to purchase from Homeswest and we are very happy living in Willagee.

There are some very nice people in Willagee. I told them I would write to Homeswest but that Greig Street is not in the middle of the current redevelopment so they were probably looking at five to 10 years. These people have got together; they are happily married and want to have their own home. They do not want to rely on Homeswest for a reduced rental. I wrote to Mr Greg Joyce of Homeswest about the matter, and his response was -

Dear Mr Shave,

Thank you for your letter dated January 21, 1992 on behalf of Mr and Mrs Willcox of 26 Greig Street, Willagee concerning their interest in purchasing their rental property.

Unfortunately, due to the high demand for rental homes in Willagee and the potential for redevelopment, Homeswest is not prepared at this stage to sell the property to Mr and Mrs Willcox.

Should the situation for rental housing in the area change it may be possible for the couple to make another application.

Mr Fred Tubby: How long had they lived there?

Mr SHAVE: The lady would have lived there for about 10 years. Mr Joyce's letter continued -

However they may wish to consider applying for home purchase assistance to buy an alternative property.

These people are happy in their present home. They have done extensive renovations and additions to that house. They are just like any other couple. They treat that house as their home, yet the Government is saying it may reassess the situation if housing requirements ease. Mr Deputy Speaker, the area you represent is in a similar situation to that of Willagee. Many people are waiting for houses and the situation will not ease. Why cannot the people on the other side of this Parliament see the logistics of allowing those people to become self-sufficient and own their own home, and take the money they want to give this Government and provide a house for one of the other people who now have to wait five and a half years for a Homeswest house?

Mr P.J. Smith: It is Homeswest policy.

Mr SHAVE: But Homeswest should be looking at allowing everyone who wants to buy his own house the right to buy.

Mr P.J. Smith: Whether or not they have the money? In other words, if they receive a pension from the Government they might not be able to afford to buy a house.

Mr SHAVE: These people have saved a little money which will enable them to buy their house. In their negotiations with me they did not even ask if they could get Government assistance for part of the finance; they were prepared to do it privately.

I had another case where a lady in Melville wished to purchase her own home. She wrote to me indicating that she had been waiting for years to have the opportunity to purchase her own home. In property terms Melville is considerably more affluent than some areas of Willagee. Mrs Mikhail wrote to me and asked whether she could have the opportunity to purchase her house. She is a supporting mother who lives with her two sons who attend a local school. One of her children has been successful this year in being awarded the citizen of the year prize at the primary school. That is significant. I wrote to Homeswest about this situation asking whether it would give consideration in allowing this lady to own her own home, which I believe is the right of all Western Australians. The response said -

Dear Doug,

Which was very nice -

Thank you for your letter dated September 30, 1991, regarding the sale of Homeswest rental homes.

Demand for rental property in the Melville area by Homeswest applicants is extremely high. However, the cost of replacing such homes, if sold is prohibitive and it would be imprudent to sell properties in this area.

In regard to Mrs Mikhail's property . . this group of units was specifically brought (sic) by Homeswest in 1986 to help service the high demand for rental accommodation in this area.

Homeswest's presence in Myaree is minimal and whilst I appreciate Mrs Mikhail's position I regret that I am not prepared to sell the unit at this stage.

I do not know whether the member for Marangaroo can decipher what is said in that letter. It indicates to me that the property is of some value which is greater than might be expected for other Homeswest properties. If that is the case, why not sell the property to this lady as it will then be unnecessary to administer her accounts? Also, it would not be necessary to send the maintenance people when she has a problem with the unit; she is prepared to take care of maintenance herself. She does not want her rent reduced; she wants to pay for the house. Why not say, "Yes, we will take that money and quite likely we will fund the construction of two units elsewhere"?

I cannot understand the ideological barrier which prohibits members opposite from agreeing to increase the availability of rental houses for people in the long term. I would have thought

that the Australian Labor Party would be in favour of improving the welfare of these people. Single mothers are in shelters and cannot obtain housing, yet this single mother wants to help take the Government out of its predicament. Obviously, something is wrong! If I am misled in my assessment of the situation, some communication must occur between the Minister for Housing and the officer in charge of Homeswest.

Mr C.J. Barnett: The Minister for Housing has repeatedly said that if Homeswest housing were sold it would cause a rental shortage.

Mr SHAVE: If this lady does not purchase her house, she will be a Homeswest tenant for another 20 or 30 years. The Minister for Housing, in his nonsensical argument, demonstrates a lack of understanding of commercial principles. If the Government received the money from the sale of that unit, for which it would gain a good price, more housing could be provided. That should be done.

Finally, I refer to the hypocrisy of the Premier in her comments to the people of Western Australia. Page four of the Governor's Speech states -

The plan is based on the premise that the creation of wealth is the province of the private sector and that Government plays a crucial supportive role . . .

\* Keeping taxation at minimum levels consistent with the level of service demanded.

I am not sure whether the left wing of the Labor Party would support that concept, but apparently that is the thinking of the Government at the moment.

Mr Pearce: Which section were you in in your Labor Party days?

Mr SHAVE: I indicate to the Minister for the Environment that I am down to my last minute.

The Premier said that the Government would keep taxes and charges down and look at the CPI levels. However, I received an inquiry from Mrs Hildegard Petersen, who is a very nice lady who lives in my electorate. She indicated that her vehicle licence charge from the Police Department last year was \$140.78, and that the figure for this year is \$187.65. So much for the integrity of the Premier!

Mr Pearce: That is the car registration?

Mr SHAVE: Yes.

Mr Pearce: The third party component has gone up.

Mr SHAVE: Surprise, surprise! Somebody must have given the Minister a briefing on that. This indicates the hypocrisy of this Government. It will hit a 71-year-old pensioner with a 50 per cent increase in her car licensing fees, yet the Premier will tell the Press in this place that the Government is keeping its taxes and charges to a minimum level. It is about time that the Government started telling the truth.

[The member's time expired.]

**MR P.J. SMITH** (Bunbury) [5.06 pm]: In my reply to the Governor's address I raise a couple of current issues affecting Bunbury. The redevelopment of the Bunbury Regional Hospital is expected to cost around \$48 million. The figure is not exact because consideration is being given to whether we should develop the hospital on the same site or combine it with the St John of God Hospital on its site. With the latter option it may be possible to operate with a joint management and/or a sharing of facilities. The St John of God Hospital is a fine facility which was recently redeveloped. In Bunbury we eagerly await the recommendation from the consultants.

Personally, although I can see the economic benefit of the latter choice, the St John of God Hospital site has a problem in that it is a small site near the centre of the central business district. However, the Bunbury Regional Hospital has a bigger site and has plenty of room for expansion, but I do not know whether the St John of God Hospital will consider moving its facilities to the other hospital site, especially as it has spent many millions of dollars on its own facilities. I also have a problem with that regional hospital site where Forrest Lodge is located, as this contains 48 patients of an aged and infirm nature. That facility is to be upgraded, but not demolished as most other buildings will be. A shift away from that area would result in the rebuilding of the Forrest Lodge.

Mr Bradshaw: It would not be necessary to rebuild it. You could leave the lodge there.

Mr P.J. SMITH: That could be done, but it would depend on the facilities provided for the nursing staff. It would be possible to ferry the staff from the St John of God Hospital site, but it would look a little out of place with what is planned for the redevelopment. This is planned to be a psychogeriatric ward with an Alzheimer's disease specialty in its redevelopment wing. I believe that will require it to be in close proximity to a hospital area; we will wait and see what is suggested. The idea of combining a Government hospital with a private hospital has potential, particularly economically, for ensuring that facilities, the cost of which is escalating, could be considered by the Government at another opportunity. I noticed in an announcement by the member for Warren in a local newspaper recently that there is a possibility of a chemotherapy facility being provided in the hospital. I know discussions are being held this week with people from the oncology department at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. I hope this can be included in the new hospital, although it would not be for people beginning the treatment but for those receiving maintenance treatment. This will allow cancer patients to have the support of their families in the south west rather than spend sometimes quite lengthy times in Perth during the treatment.

The Forrest Lodge redevelopment project has been urgent for some time. A continuing problem exists in Bunbury of the medium cases of Alzheimer's disease. Most members of Parliament will know about what I believe is a dreadful affliction. Patients in the medium stage of the disease become disoriented and can sometimes become quite aggressive. There is nowhere in the south west where they can be looked after properly. They are sometimes a danger to themselves, and often a danger to other residents of the various lodges or nursing homes which they occupy. At present they must be taken to Perth for treatment, either to see whether their behaviour can be modified, or until they can return to nursing care in the areas in which they live. Even if delays occur in the main building, I hope the first stage of the redevelopment will include extensions and refurbishment in Forrest Lodge.

Many people with disabilities have approached me about the need for a hydrotherapy pool, and they have indicated the need for it to be included in the new hospital. Planning for such facilities for the new hospital should take place now. However, having examined the situation further, I have discovered that another solution exists. Most members will be aware of the benefits of hydrotherapy for certain diseases, particularly muscle injuries, asthma and arthritis. A future hydrotherapy pool is planned for Morrisey Homestead, the new building for the South West Association for the Physically Handicapped. However, that is a long way off. The building is being built at the moment, courtesy of Lotteries Commission money, and many donations from businesses in Bunbury under the guidance of the president, Phyllis Barnes. They have done an excellent job, and although it is envisaged that a hydrotherapy pool will be included in that facility in the future, it will not solve the need for a hydrotherapy pool now.

A few years ago, the Bunbury City built a heated pool at the recreation centre for which various community groups donated a considerable amount of money. Fund raising occurred through a south west-wide television appeal and the Government donated \$30 000 so that people requiring hydrotherapy - for example, asthma patients and others - could use it. One of the conditions for the building of that pool was that a hydrotherapy pool would not be included in the hospital because the new pool could be extensively used by the local community. However, the problem is that that pool is warm and the outdoor pool in Bunbury is cold. Two swimming clubs use the indoor pool as well as various other sporting groups and recreational swimmers. The temperature for recreational swimmers should be about 27 or 28 degrees centigrade, otherwise one gets too hot. I was in Beatty Park pool this morning and came out unrefreshed and required a cold shower to cool down. However, the water temperature required for people who use the pool for treatment is 29 degrees or 30 degrees; the water in the recreational pool is too cold for many of them.

Obviously, a conflict exists even though there is careful planning of the use of the pool. Anyone who requires hydrotherapy outside the regulated hours either cannot get it or is in danger of being injured as a result of the many recreational swimmers in the pool. Last year, one of the recreational centre staff submitted a proposal to the city council that during the summer the solar heating from the heated pool, which is used less because it requires very little to keep the temperature up, could be used for the outdoor pool. That would raise the temperature of the water by four or five degrees centigrade. Consequently, the swimming

clubs could use it rather than the indoor pool. That would give some clearance to the indoor pool in summer when the temperature could be kept higher for the people needing it. Unfortunately that plan was put aside and the Bunbury City Council has considered more expensive heating. Each time the issue arises it seems that the area of solar heating increases with associated higher costs. Eventually, the council will make its decision. I hope it does not become too expensive and that the Government will be able to assist with that project because the community needs it, particularly those people requiring hydrotherapy.

I refer now to the secondary school special placement program. I noticed recently that the Minister for Education was advertising in most of the rural newspapers for students of academic and other talents to apply for a place in schools in the metropolitan area. I take exception to that because that will cause a brain drain from the rural areas. Our most talented year 8 children - quite an early stage - are being asked to go to Perth to attend metropolitan Government schools for specialised schooling. I asked myself why this could not happen in high schools in rural areas, particularly Bunbury. I realise that there are so few talented students in each school that it would require too many specialised people to look after the one or two students at each school in each area; for example the academic areas, music, languages and so on. My inquiries at the high schools in Bunbury found that the problem has been discussed by teachers and educators for years to see what they could do. Bunbury has three high schools and it seems to me it would be fairly simple to make one a music and arts school, one a science and maths school and one an English, social sciences and languages school. However there is concern among the high schools that if one high school were allocated maths and science, the top level of students would attend that school and the others would be drained. A community group has been established to consider the provision of this type of education in the region. I would like to see a pilot established in the Bunbury area involving the community, the students, the teachers and other educators to see if there is a way to stop the brain drain to the metropolitan area and to set up courses for talented children. Many ideas have come through already, although I do not support any one in particular.

Perhaps timetables could be integrated so that the small student group could be bused from one school to another for those specialist courses. New timetables for after school or before school classes could be introduced. Perhaps senior colleges might be the answer so that years 11 and 12 students attend one school instead of three schools. Anybody involved in this will know that there has been widespread disagreement between parents and teachers about many of these ideas. However, we need to do something to keep these talented children in rural areas and I wish the committee well in its efforts.

In my 1991 Budget speech I referred to the possibility of a very fast train service being developed between Perth and Bunbury. I am pleased that the Minister for Transport has taken up that request and has commissioned the group that is involved with the Eastern States' very fast train, Halpin, Maunsell and Glick -

Mr Bloffwitch: It will be standard gauge.

Mr P.J. SMITH: Yes, I hope it will be standard gauge. That group has already made a preliminary report which I was very privileged to attend recently. It considers all options and the thing that I am very pleased about is that the technology is available. If Bunbury and other regional centres are to develop, we need the trip to be only of about one hour's duration. That is not viable by plane because of the cost of fares, but a train might be viable. Importantly, that is not something for the near future, but we need to plan now. One of the reasons we must plan is that the Government is looking at a population of 100 000 people in the greater Bunbury area, and we certainly must look at all forms of transport and at the proposal to have a standard gauge link between Bunbury and the national grid. This is the ideal time to consider the very fast train as an option for the future. The proposal will involve a train with a top speed of 275 kph, probably on a standard gauge line although not necessarily. Anybody who has travelled on the *Australind* knows that the major problem with maintaining a high speed is the metropolitan end of the trip. The new service would have to involve a dedicated line to the centre of Perth. At the moment, the *Australind* can travel only as fast as the suburban trains.

I was pleased to see that \$13 million has been allocated in the One Nation package to begin the standard gauge line from Picton to Brunswick. I have spoken already to the Minister for



Transport about that because the proposal is to follow the present line and we must think very carefully about how that standard gauge line is laid if it is to be used for a very fast train because the curves will have to be straightened out. Some of the curves on the Bunbury to Perth line at the moment have only a 400 metre radius, and that severely restricts the speed of trains. If the line carrying the very fast train does have curves, the curves will need to be of a two to three kilometre radius with a cambered formation. There is other technology such as tilt carriages available for the trains. However, one of the problems that the *Australind* has is that the line on which it travels is built for slow, bulk traffic. There is plenty of room on the rail reserve at the moment for a dedicated line. A standard gauge line could easily be put through to Harvey because the line from Brunswick to Harvey is generally straight. I hope that this will be seen as a real option and not too expensive. Certainly we need to plan for the future now.

In debates on the Address-in-Reply, members tend to talk about matters in their own electorates and there is much more in my electorate about which I could speak. However, I want to refer to recycling and general pollution problems. When I talk to people, I find that recycling, the greenhouse effect, and the state of the environment are uppermost in their minds. Despite the fact that they are also concerned about jobs and they are prepared to put aside their minor concerns about the environment in favour of major industrial developments, they still see the environment as a major issue. This Government has put forward good initiatives to protect the environment and has been supported by the media. However, people, and particularly young people, are concerned about the environment. Local governments in my area have got into the swing of protecting the environment by paying people to collect recyclable materials, including aluminium, glass, paper and some types of plastics. They should be congratulated for that. However, a lot more still needs to be done and more of us can help to preserve our environment.

Yesterday I received a magazine titled *The Straw Revolution* from the Moora pulp and paper company. It is an interesting document and I am sure that many members who also received it have read it. That paper mill will be great for this State and I hope that it can go ahead. It will certainly help to reduce the millions of tonnes of paper and cardboard that are thrown away each year in this State and Australia. The Saica group is very involved with newspaper recycling, but we tend to receive more and more magazines and other documents in plastic packaging. I believe that form of packaging should be avoided, although it is cheap and convenient. I do not think that is the way we should be using our petrochemical supplies. I hope that businesses can follow the example of the Australian Quadriplegic Association and Amnesty International who send their magazines in brown paper bags. They are equally effective and are recyclable.

One thing I am a bit worried about is the amount of paper produced in this Parliament every day that we are in session.

Mr Bloffwitch: It should worry you a little more than "a bit".

Mr P.J. SMITH: It does worry me more than a bit. Four years ago four green bins of paper went out of this Parliament every day. Since that time, the management of Parliament House has set up at least three recycling bins, one of which is in Hansard.

Mr Lewis: Perhaps you should stop putting out a lot of superfluous propaganda.

Mr P.J. SMITH: It is not the superfluous propaganda that is the problem; it is things like envelopes that go straight into the bin. It is amazing, is it not Mr Speaker, that these people have to find someone to blame.

Mr Lewis: You waste hundreds of thousands of dollars on superfluous propaganda.

Mr P.J. SMITH: I am trying to tell the House that hundreds and thousands of pieces of paper go into the bin and out to the rubbish dump.

Mr Lewis: Of course it does; it is not worth anything.

Mr P.J. SMITH: As I said, Mr Speaker, there is a problem with the attitude of many members of this House. They think that because they consider something a piece of junk it should be thrown out. That is not the attitude that members of this House should have because there are recycling bins which are emptied regularly. Perhaps I will ask Mr Pacecca to advise members of the types of paper that should go into these bins. However, if our

young people ask us to look after the environment it should not take very much for us to recycle paper.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued.]

Debate thus adjourned.

### **COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION**

#### *Council Personnel Appointment*

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

**[Questions without notice taken.]**

*House adjourned at 6.04 pm*

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD - POLICE INQUIRY

#### *Outcome*

1. Mr CLARKO to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

What was the outcome of the police investigation into business links between private companies controlled by former Totalisator Agency Board General Manager, Mr Des Carpenter, and companies doing business with the TAB?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

I have yet to be advised of the Commissioner of Police's investigation. This is a matter that is being investigated by the commissioner and questions should be directed to the Minister for Police.

### TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD - AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT 1991

#### *Operational Changes*

2. Mr CLARKO to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Have the concerns expressed in the Auditor General's 1991 report on the operations of the Totalisator Agency Board been addressed by the Office of Racing and Gaming or the TAB?
- (2) What changes have been made in line with the Auditor General's recommendations?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Treasurer has approved the establishment of a reserve account under section 21 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act will be amended to include a similar power. The other items raised by the Auditor General have been discussed and necessary action is currently under way.

### RAILWAYS - AUSTRALIND

#### *Prospector Railcars - Tourist Train, Perth-Albany Proposal*

8. Mr WATT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1)
  - (a) What was the total cash cost, including any spares purchased, of all units for the *Australind* rail services;
  - (b) what will be the extra cost by spreading the payments over 20 years?
- (2) Are motors burning out regularly?
- (3) Why were small motors used instead of a larger capacity motor?
- (4) Was an *Australind* unit non-operational at the new Picton depot for some time as it had been partially cannibalised to supply parts for other units of the *Australind* fleet and could not be moved with safety?
- (5) If a 2 power car - no trailer - "consist" of the *Australind* is run, do patrons have no toilets?
- (6) Why was a design adopted for country railcars - *Australind* - with no toilets in power cars, whereas every *Prospector* has two?
- (7) Do people travelling on the *Prospector* railcars, even short distances, enjoy facilities of a far higher level than the *Australind*, especially mothers with small children and people who may be orthopaedically disadvantaged?
- (8) What are the current proposals to run a tourist train -
  - (a) ex Perth on Friday nights;
  - (b) ex Albany on Sunday nights;

in the summer period as mentioned in 1989 by the then Premier, Hon Peter Dowding?

- (9) If the Hotham Valley railway runs tourist trains to Albany, particularly with a steam locomotive, how will the locomotive be turned?
- (10) (a) In the redevelopment of the Albany foreshore, is the York Street level crossing to be reopened;
- (b) if so, what further safety measures will be taken, given the crossing was originally closed because of poor visibility on the western end of the northern approach?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) (a) The initial cost of the *Australind* including some major spares was \$9 194 127. In addition, an order has now been placed to purchase a set of spare bogies at a cost of \$625 000.
- (b) The *Australind* was purchased outright with capital funds.
- (2) No.
- (3) Engines and transmissions have been matched to provide a train that will meet timetable requirements. The engines are not underpowered.
- (4) An *Australind* car has been out of service due to faults in the final drive and transmission. These are being attended to under warranty. The opportunity was taken to use the bogies from this car to facilitate a repair exchange program for the fleet.
- (5)-(6) The five *Australind* cars are all power cars; however, two of the cars are not equipped with driving compartments. All *Australind* cars have toilet facilities.
- (7) No. *Australind* cars have provision for wheelchairs and for nursing mothers.
- (8) Westrail does not possess suitable rolling stock for a weekend rail service to Albany. Hotham Valley tourist railway has indicated interest in operating a weekend service on a charter basis but is said to be awaiting the results of an intended market feasibility study to be arranged by the Albany Tourist Bureau.
- (9) A turning facility will continue to be made available at Albany.
- (10) (a) Yes.
- (b) The railway level crossing will be provided with flashlight warning protection.

#### WESTRAIL - ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES SERVICE PROPOSAL

*Midland-Fremantle, Armadale-Perth - Freight and Shunting Duties, Savings Evaluation*

9. Mr WATT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will Westrail eventually purchase or lease electric locomotives to run services, other than for suburban passengers, between -
  - (a) Midland and Fremantle;
  - (b) Armadale and Perth?
- (2) Has Westrail considered electrifying the Woodbridge-Kewdale-Kenwick-Canning Vale-Kwinana-Fremantle sections, as has been done to freight-only lines in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane?
- (3) Has Westrail conducted any evaluations as to possible savings over -
  - (a) one year;
  - (b) five years;
  - (c) ten years;
 if electric locomotives were used on freight and shunting duties in the metropolitan area, instead of diesel electric?

- (4) Has consideration been given to electrification of -
  - (a) Armadale - Bicton;
  - (b) Midland - Avon yard?
- (5) If yes to (4), what are the estimated savings using electric locomotives on these sections, instead of diesel locomotives?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Not contemplated at this time.
- (2)-(3) No.
- (4) Yes, a preliminary report was prepared in 1980 for the Kwinana-Bunbury and Kwinana-Kalgoorlie sections and in 1982 a detailed report was completed for the south west main line and associated narrow gauge lines.
- (5) The 1982 report showed that under the conditions that prevailed, electrification of the Bunbury line was not viable. The indications were also seen as valid for the Kalgoorlie line.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY SERVICES - MEMBERSHIP**  
*Bureau for Disability Services Establishment Funding*

12. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) With respect to the Advisory Council for Disability Services publicly announced by the Minister, to which the Minister has appointed 14 members, eight of whom are Government employees and only two of whom solely represent parents, is it the Minister's intention to have the advisory council controlled by the bureaucracy by having a majority of eight of the 14 advisers, Government employees?
- (2) Is it the Minister's intention to increase representation for parents?
- (3) Is it the Minister's intention to increase representation from the regional advisory councils of the Authority for the Intellectually Handicapped?
- (4) As these councils are already in existence, is the Minister prepared to accept a representative from each regional advisory council to serve on the Advisory Council for Disability Services?
- (5) As the largest single group of people requiring disability services are the intellectually disabled, why is this group one of the smallest groups represented on the advisory council.
- (6) What action will the Minister take to increase the representation from the intellectually disabled group, whether they be through members or, more importantly, through parents of people with this type of disability?
- (7) With respect to the Minister's statement in various reports that the establishment of a Bureau for Disability Services would be cost-neutral -
  - (a) is the bureau seconding staff from other authorities and other departments;
  - (b) has it seconded any staff from the Authority for the Intellectually Handicapped;
- (8)
  - (a) have any of these seconded staff to the bureau had their previous positions filled, even if on a casual or temporary basis;
  - (b) if so, how can the Minister then claim that the bureau is cost-neutral?
- (9) What additional funding is to be made for the establishment of a Bureau for Disability Services?

Mr RIPPER replied:

- (1) Application for membership of the advisory council for disability services was invited through a series of advertisements in metropolitan, regional and

country newspapers. Membership of the advisory council consists of people with disabilities, their families, service providers and caregivers, and others with relevant expertise. Each member has been appointed for their individual skills, experience and knowledge. They do not represent any particular interest group, organisation or committee.

(2)-(6)

Not applicable. Refer (1) above.

(7) Yes.

(8) (a) Yes.

(b) Where positions have been filled this has occurred from within existing agency budget.

(9) Nil.

#### DAIRY INDUSTRY - DAIRY QUOTAS *Movement Since Inception of Quota Auctions*

19. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Would the Minister list on an area basis, where dairy quotas are being sold from and to which areas they are being transferred, since the introduction of the auction of dairy quotas?
- (2) Is there a general trend for dairy quotas southwards away from the irrigation areas of the south west?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) The net movement of quota, on a regional basis, arising from quota auctions since their inception in 1986, is as follows -

Northern	(eg Murray, Serpentine)	- 3 776 litres
Irrigation	(eg Waroona, Harvey)	- 7 517 litres
Central	(eg Capel, Busselton)	+ 6 858 litres
Southern	(eg Margaret River, Albany)	+ 4 836 litres

- (2) Yes.

#### TRANSPERTH - RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM *New Electric Railcars*

34. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many new electric rail cars are to be brought into service on the existing metropolitan rail network to satisfy Transperth's current electrification program?
- (2) How many additional new rail cars as referred to in (1) will be required to satisfy the current projected operational demands on the Joondalup line?
- (3) What is the capital cost of each rail car unit as previously referred?
- (4) Who is the owner of the new electric rail cars currently in service?
- (5) From whom are the rail cars as referred currently leased from?
- (6) What is the annual lease fee per rail car unit as referred?
- (7) What is the current total annual cost to the State for leasing new electric rail rolling stock?
- (8) After the commencement of the Joondalup line what is the projected total annual cost to lease all new electric passenger rolling stock on Transperth's rail system?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) 21 two car sets.
- (2) 22 two car sets.

- (3) The estimated average capital cost is \$4.286 million for the first 21 sets and \$4.773 million for the 22 sets.
- (4) Asea Brown Boveri Credit AB of Sweden.
- (5) Mercantile Mutual Life Ltd.
- (6) \$0.545 million per set.
- (7) \$11.453 million for the first 21 sets.
- (8) The projected total annual leasing cost is \$30.210 million.

**MARINE AND HARBOURS, DEPARTMENT OF - BARGES AND SERVICE VESSELS**

*Servicing Marking Buoys and Navigational Aids*

35. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Department of Marine and Harbours use its own barges and other service vessels to service marking buoys and other navigational aids under its control?
- (2) If so, are these barges and service vessels being maintained to standards previously established and within the periods as previously established?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

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

**PORT AUTHORITIES - STEVEDORE LABOUR EMPLOYMENT**  
*Government Direction*

36. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Government or any of its agencies, or otherwise the Department of Transport directing any of the various port authorities in Western Australia to hire on the basis of permanent employment, stevedore labour to be directly or otherwise indirectly employed by the port authorities?
- (2) If so, and as the Fremantle Port Authority has effected a comprehensive redundancy scheme for the majority of its stevedore labour, for what reason is such a direction to other port authorities being made?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not relevant.

**PORTS AND HARBOURS - ALBANY PORT**  
*Container Shipping Upgrading Cost*

46. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Transport:

What would be the estimated cost of upgrading the Albany port to handle container shipping?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

The Port of Albany could handle container shipping now without additional infrastructure. The use of self-sustaining vessels - such as currently occurs at Broome - requires no specialist equipment in the port.

**AIRPORTS - ALBANY**  
*International Standard Upgrading Cost*

48. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Transport:

What would be the estimated cost of upgrading the Albany airport to an international standard?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

"International standard" can mean a wide range of things, depending on the type and size of aircraft operated, the frequency of service, the status of the service that is negotiated between the countries involved, and the level of immigration facilities that are required. Without knowing these factors it is difficult to set an appropriate standard of development and, hence, difficult to put forward an estimated cost. However, I would be prepared to have the matter considered in greater detail should more information become available.

**CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF -  
HARDWOOD PLANTATION COMPANIES**

*Australian Securities Commission or National Companies and Securities Commission -  
Exemption Applications Support*

51. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has the Western Australian Chip and Pulp Co Pty Ltd or any other hardwood plantation company ever approached the Department of Conservation and Land Management seeking its support for an application to either the National Companies and Securities Commission or the Australian Securities Commission for special exemptions to enable the company to more efficiently fund hardwood plantation activities?
- (2) If yes -
  - (a) did the Department of Conservation and Land Management support the application;
  - (b) if so, in what way;
  - (c) what exemptions was the company seeking?

Mr PEARCE replied:

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

**BUSES - SOUTH WEST SERVICES**  
*Government Proprietary Interest*

53. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government or any of its agencies, inclusive of Westrail, any proprietorial interest in any bus service to the south west of the State?
- (2) If so, what are the details of the particular services as to -
  - (a) company;
  - (b) bus service name;
  - (c) percentage of ownership;
  - (d) by what Government agency?
- (3) If yes to (1), do the services duplicate any Westrail passenger service or directly compete with each other on any routes, or part thereof?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) The only proprietorial interest Government has in any bus service to the south west of the State is in Westrail.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

**MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT - REID HIGHWAY WEST OF MITCHELL  
FREEWAY**  
*Construction Plans - Total Projected Cost*

54. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Main Roads Department programmed for the construction of that part of the Reid Highway west of the Mitchell Freeway?



- (2) (a) If so, what is the intended date for the commencement of roadworks;
- (b) when are these works scheduled to be completed?
- (3) What is the total projected cost of the Reid Highway west of the Mitchell Freeway?
- (4) What standard of road is intended to be built viz. four lane divided carriageways, four lane undivided, or what?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1)-(2) Not at this stage. I am aware of local interest and arrangements are in hand to meet council and locally interested parties to hear their input first hand.

- (3)-(4) Mitchell Freeway to Duffy Road - four lane divided carriageway. Duffy Road to Marmion Avenue - two lane single carriageway. \$13.3 million - December 1991 prices including land.

#### WHITBY FALLS HOSTEL - LONG TERM PLANS

62. Mr MINSON to the Minister for Health:

What are the long term plans for the Whitby Falls hostel?

Mr WILSON replied:

Whitby Falls hostel is a component of the long term community psychiatric rehabilitation and accommodation plans of the Health Department presently being developed.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - "IT'S OKAY TO SAY NO" CAMPAIGN

*Cost*

63. Mr MINSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What has been the cost of the current "It's Okay to Say No" campaign?
- (2) Is this campaign part of an ongoing campaign and if so what will be the emphasis of further campaigns?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) \$67 000.
- (2) Yes, this campaign is part of an ongoing comprehensive strategy. The emphasis of any further campaigns will continue to be education about the risks of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, their impact on health and their prevention.

#### CONDOMS - FAILURE RATE INFORMATION

*HIV - Positive Cases and Causes*

64. Dr TURNBULL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the most up-to-date information available on the failure rate of condoms in actual use - ie as distinct from the failure rate under laboratory conditions?
- (2) What is the most recent information on -
  - (a) the total number of persons in Western Australia who are HIV positive;
  - (b) the number of these who became infected through -
    - (i) anal sex;
    - (ii) vaginal sex;
    - (iii) IV drug use;
    - (iv) being infected by an HIV positive mother;

(v) unknown or other causes?

- (3) What is the most recent information available on the level of risk of HIV infection for women whose male partners are bisexual and who do not know of their partner's bisexuality?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Australian studies have found that between 0.6 per cent and 5.4 per cent of condoms break during sexual intercourse.

- (2) (a) Western Australia has a total of 686 cases of HIV infection.

- (b) I am advised that the number of people who became infected through activities listed cannot be calculated. Many people engage in more than one behaviour. However, there are a greater number of male homosexuals who engage in anal sex than heterosexuals. Categories of infection by risk factor(s) in Western Australia are as follows -

Homosexual males	469
Bisexual	44
Intravenous drug users	38
Homos/Bisex/IV drug users	44
Blood products	31
Heterosexual	47
Perinatal	1
Unknown	12
	686

- (3) I am advised that accurate levels of risk cannot be calculated, but if the male partner is HIV positive the risk of transmission to the female is 15 to 20 per cent.

**RAILWAYS - PERTH URBAN RAIL SYSTEM**  
*Fibre Optic Cable Contract 358C - Successful Tender Amount*

83. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Transport:

What was the amount of the successful tender for 35,000 metres of fibre optic cable for the Perth Urban Rail System (contract number 358C)?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

\$120 050.

**WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - FARMLAND  
RETICULATION SCHEME**  
*Regulation Changes Consideration*

111. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is the Government considering altering the regulations which apply to the farmland reticulation scheme?
- (2) If so, when will those changes be announced?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Water Authority of Western Australia is currently reviewing the degree to which existing regulations, policies and practices for the farmlands reticulation meet the needs of communities reliant on this scheme.

**WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - RURAL WATER STRATEGY**  
*Water Extension Projects - Notional Costs Addition Decision*

112. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When was a decision made by the Water Authority of Western Australia to

add notional costs for water extension projects initiated under the rural water strategy?

- (2) Why was this decision made?
- (3) On what basis are those notional costs calculated?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) No decision has been made by the Water Authority of Western Australia to add notional costs for water extensions initiated under the rural water strategy. Notional costs are sometimes calculated for internal reasons, but they have not been applied to any of the projects referred to.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Notional costs are calculated on the basis of the estimated opportunity cost forgone, in terms of sources and distribution mains capacity, as a result of using that capacity to supply to new farmlands water extensions.

#### FISHERIES - SEAFOOD IMPORTS

126. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) How many kilograms of fish products were imported into Western Australia in the financial year ending June 1991?
- (2) Would the Minister provide a breakdown of these imports?
- (3) How many kilograms of this was tested in a statistically representative manner for -
  - (a) mercury, cadmium and other heavy metal contaminants;
  - (b) bacterial contaminants;
  - (c) correct species labelling;
  - (d) preservative and colouring treatments;
  - (e) correct country of origin labelling?
- (4) How many kilograms failed each of the above tests?
- (5) How many kilograms were rejected for such failure?
- (6) How much did the fish importer pay for this testing?
- (7) Where were the fish products stored while testing procedures were carried out?
- (8) Who paid for such storage and how much was paid?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1)-(2) I will provide the member with details from the Australian Bureau of Statistics in relation to seafood imports into Western Australia.
- (3)-(8) The responsibilities for testing seafood at the point of entry is that of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, a Commonwealth agency. They assumed total responsibility for the inspection and testing of all imported foods, including seafood, as of 31 May 1991. I will also provide separate details in relation to testing by the Health Department when information becomes available to me.

#### RURAL ADJUSTMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION - CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

##### *Separate Roles Proposal - Chairman Vacancy*

133. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that the roles of chairman and chief executive officer of the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation are to be separated, thereby creating a vacancy for the position of chairman?

- (2) If so, can the Minister also assure the House that the person appointed to fill the vacancy will be selected on the basis of merit and not on the basis of his or her political views or loyalties?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

Any legislative changes to the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation Act will be considered at the conclusion of the review of agriculture portfolio services, which is currently being carried out.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### CLARK, MR ALEX - SIMPSON'S TEACHERS CREDIT SOCIETY DEPOSITS *Passing of Information to Robert Pearce Denial*

11. Mr MacKINNON to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is the Leader of the House aware that Mr Alex Clark has denied passing any information about Mr and Mrs Keith Simpson's private deposit funds records to the Leader of the House?
- (2) If so, does the Leader of the House -
  - (a) still stand by his claim that Mr Clark passed the information regarding the Simpsons' Teachers Credit Society deposits to him; and
  - (b) still stand by his claim that Mr Clark advised him that the Simpsons then deposited the funds withdrawn from TCS with the State Energy Commission?
- (3) If not, who advised the Leader of the House of both these pieces of information which he then revealed to the Parliament?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(3)

This is a clear demonstration of what I, the Premier, and others on this side of the House have said all along; that is, these matters are best left to the Royal Commission. I stand by my answer to all the things put to me by the Leader of the Opposition. What I said in the House yesterday was completely true. I am perfectly happy to go to the Royal Commission next week when I have been called and to be cross-examined not only by lawyers for the commission but also by lawyers for those from TCS and anybody else there, with or without their lawyers. I will answer any questions, and they will doubtless try to trip me up. People can then make a judgment about whether I am telling the truth. Mr Clark can also tell his story before the Royal Commission - that is what it is for - and the Royal Commission can make a judgment about what it believes the truth to be. The fact is that I told the House the absolute truth yesterday, I am telling the absolute truth today, and I will tell the absolute truth to the Royal Commission on Wednesday week.

#### CRIMINAL CODE - REVIEW *Recommendations Implementation*

12. Mrs WATKINS to the Premier:

What is the Government doing to implement recommendations flowing from the review of the Criminal Code, as referred to in the Governor's Speech?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

It is important to address via that question an important issue in this State, one raised in part through a series of questions arising from allegations made a year and a half or even longer ago relating to the operations of the police in this State, the Police Act and the Parliamentary Commissioner Act as it relates to complaints against police. The Parliamentary Commissioner Act provides for investigation of complaints against police but the Ombudsman's jurisdiction in relation to police is different from that which applies to officers

of the Department of Corrective Services or those in the Department for Community Services who have responsibility for the incarceration of juveniles. One of the weaknesses of the Act is the 42 day requirement from the time the complaint is made to the police until such time as the Ombudsman may begin investigations. It may be sooner but that is the maximum time.

An Opposition member: It can be a lot longer too.

Dr LAWRENCE: That is true. It has led in some parts of the community to a suspicion that people are not likely to have their cases properly reviewed. It is interesting to note in relation to officers of the Department of Corrective Services, about whom complaints might be made immediately, that a vast majority of those complaints prove to be groundless upon first questioning by the Ombudsman and can be resolved quite quickly without the need for formal investigations. I am sure the police would prefer to be in that position.

Members should note also that the Law Reform Commission some time ago released a paper - which I urge members to read - in relation to offences under the Police Act which some people suspect may be used as a vehicle for harassment. The committee which reported this morning and other people have suggested that the police have considerable powers which may be abused. Parts VI and VII of the existing Police Act particularly contain some minor offences which are dealt with in the Court of Petty Sessions, but which nonetheless should worry all members of the community to the extent that they remain on the Statute. Some of them are more serious matters that will take considerable debate, such as living off the earnings of prostitution and so on, but others should be removed from the Statute book to clean up the Statute and remove the suggestion that they might be used in an artificial way by police officers to harass young people particularly.

My investigations have revealed a couple of extraordinary things and I will not go beyond this point. However, that Act contains a range of offences against good order, such as ringing doorbells, flying kites, rolling casks, burning cork, throwing coals, beating carpet, picking flowers, injuring public fountains, throwing dead animals into harbours, furious driving, playing billiards on Christmas day, refusal of reputed thieves to leave theatres - there might be a few people in this town who should stay at home a lot, cheating at play, fortune telling - based on the United Kingdom Witchcraft Act of 1735, and wantonly extinguishing street lights. I hope that street lights will not be wantonly extinguished, but there are other provisions on the Statute book that the Law Reform Commission will almost certainly report on to the Parliament and I hope members will deal with this matter seriously when it is dealt with in the Parliament. We want to make sure that complaints against police are dealt with expeditiously and fairly so that we can have confidence in the police, that they are not left open to allegations that cannot be properly checked, and that people who want to make complaints against police can do so with confidence.

#### MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS - SHORTAGE IN RURAL AREAS

##### *Government Initiatives*

13. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Health:

Given the shortage of doctors in rural Western Australia, has the Government any new initiatives to encourage doctors to practise in rural Western Australia?

Mr WILSON replied:

The deputy leader of the National Party is of course well placed to ask this question about the problem in recruiting doctors to various places in his electorate, of which I am well aware. The member will be aware of the actions of the former Minister for Health, the present Deputy Premier, in instigating the Kamien report. The inquiry was headed by Professor Kamien

and he made recommendations seeking to address the difficulties of recruiting medical practitioners for rural parts of the State. The Government accepted the recommendations in the Kamien report and as a result established the centre for remote and rural medicine which is currently operating with great effect. It has already established a number of centres whereby students, particularly those from country areas, in their final year of medical training are encouraged to do stints in country areas. In addition, the country medical foundation has been established in cooperation with that centre, and as a result of the energetic efforts of local government authorities around Western Australia, particularly those in the Geraldton mid-west area, that has been very successful in raising funds and, in conjunction with the centre for remote and rural medicine, in establishing scholarships, not only for trainee medical practitioners but also for people training for nursing positions. Those scholarships are again directed towards attracting students from country areas to country medical and nursing practices. It has been recognised at long last that the major force in the establishment of more medical practitioners in country areas lies with the Federal Government. It has much more potential for providing incentives for medical practitioners in country areas through the operation of the Medicare system.

We have impressed consistently on the Federal Government that greater incentives should be provided for country medical practitioners to provide locum and after hours assistance to take the pressure off those who are continuing in country medical practice, because there are difficulties there. The part being played by country communities in trying to guarantee proper remuneration for those willing to take up country practice must be supplemented at the Federal level. I hope that the latest report to the Federal Government will be acted upon conscientiously, and that rather than just uttering more words, we will see action at that level to reinforce the action that has already been taken by this Government to improve that situation.

#### PERTH MINT - NUGGET GOLD BULLION COINS

##### *Success*

14. Mr LEAHY to the Minister for State Development:

Has the Perth Mint's Australian Nugget gold bullion coin been a success?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

It is important to advise the House of the situation.

Mr Lewis: You are a day late! This Press release came out yesterday.

Mr TAYLOR: It was in this morning's paper but it is important that the House is aware of the situation. The figures that have been released have been compiled by the World Gold Council, which is an international organisation funded by gold producers. The figures are reputable and in many ways the World Gold Council can be likened in its work to the International Wool Secretariat. Three factors are involved in the achievement by GoldCorp of market leadership in 1991.

Mr Kierath: Why not mint a Royal Commission gold coin?

Mr TAYLOR: We could mint one with the member's name on it, and that would be an extraordinary failure!

The first factor is the introduction in March last year of the large bullion coins which contain two ounces, 10 ounces and one kilogram of gold. Those coins were a world first, and to date no other bullion producer has been able to emulate them. Those coins have substantially increased the volume of gold sold as nugget coins. The second factor is the growing market acceptance of the new production strategy for gold bullion coins, particularly those containing one ounce of gold or less. Under this strategy, which was introduced in 1990, the designs are changed each year, and this has led to increased mintages. The third, and one of the most important factors, is that

the nugget coins are now regarded undoubtedly as the Rolls Royce of bullion coins in the world.

Mr Kierath: They have remained static in value.

Mr TAYLOR: No. The coins that they have produced have done very well in terms of value.

Mr Kierath: I can tell you that -

Mr TAYLOR: If the member can afford to buy them, he may be able to tell me. There is no doubt that the achievement by the Perth Mint and GoldCorp of that world market leadership after less than five years of tackling the world markets is an extraordinary effort. Not only do the Perth Mint and GoldCorp have market leadership for the gold coins, the mint's Australian koala platinum bullion coin has been the world's number one platinum coin since 1988. The nugget program has used more than 57 tonnes of Australian gold, with about 88 per cent of sales being outside Australia, which has generated export income of more than \$1 billion. That sort of successful program of adding value to our raw materials in Western Australia is exactly the sort of strategy that the Premier has outlined in the WA Advantage document and is one that we will continue to pursue in other areas with as much success.

#### TEACHERS CREDIT SOCIETY - LIBERAL DESTABILISATION ALLEGATIONS *Senior Liberal Member's Identity Disclosure*

15. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Why does the Minister for the Environment continue to refuse to name in the Parliament the "senior Liberal" who supposedly advised the Minister of a non-existent Liberal plan to destabilise the Teachers Credit Society?
- (2) Has the Minister advised the Royal Commission of the identity of the so-called "senior Liberal" as part of his telling it "all he knows" a few weeks ago?
- (3) Will he now disclose the identity of this person, if he or she exists at all?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(4)

The member is a glutton for punishment. During the debate in September 1987, I presented to the Parliament, in response to a motion moved by the member for Nedlands, a series of summations of management committee meetings held by the Liberal Party. The senior Liberal provided that information not to me directly but to the Government. That information that I rolled out in the Parliament - with the exception of an argument about one meeting - was not denied by the people at the time, and it was not the case that the senior Liberal was the person who made the allegations about the Liberal Party seeking to destabilise the Teachers Credit Society. These summations of the meetings of the management committee of the Liberal Party were attached to a claim by that person that at those meetings - which were attended by Mr Simpson, who was described by members of the Liberal Party as a private citizen but who was in fact the President of the Liberal Party, and which were attended also by the Leader of the Opposition - the destabilising of the TCS was canvassed. That point was made by me to demonstrate that Mr Simpson was not unknowing of what was going on with regard to these matters.

The investigator from the Royal Commission did not ask me for the identity of the senior Liberal at the time, nor did he raise many of these issues. One of the problems the Royal Commission has in this regard is that it is not legally entitled to ask members about speeches that they have made in this place, but despite that I answered all of the questions which were asked of me by the investigator from the Royal Commission. I expect this to be a matter of some

discussion at the Royal Commission on Wednesday week, and I will be happy to discuss it then.

**AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION - PRIVATE LAND**  
*Government Nominations*

16. Mr P.J. SMITH to the Minister for the Environment:

Has the State Government ever nominated areas in private landholdings for listing by the Australian Heritage Commission?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I thank the member for the question because it is an interesting one. While I have been Minister for the Environment, the State Government has made no nomination to the Australian Heritage Commission of any place in private ownership, nor has it, as far as I can discover, made any nomination at any time since 1983 because we have a firm and consistent policy that we are entitled -

Mr House: What about the Department of Conservation and Land Management?

Mr PEARCE: The Department of Conservation and Land Management counsels the Government in this regard and it has never nominated areas outside of Government landholdings. The Australian Heritage Commission sought of its own motion to put onto the National Estate areas in addition to those forests which were in CALM ownership. I have gone back through the records and discovered that it was not always the case that that care was given by the State Government to private owners. The Ludlow-Wonnerup area in the south west has been on the National Estate for some time. That area has an interesting history. In 1976 the newly set up Australian Heritage Commission - set up, I might say, by the Fraser Government, but on plans prepared by the former Whitlam Government - sought nominations from all State Governments for a place which might be registered by the AHC on the National Estate. Since it is question time, I have a question for members on this side of the House: Who was the Premier in 1974? It was Sir Charles Court.

Mr MacKinnon: They did not even know!

Mr PEARCE: I am very disappointed that my members did not leap to answer that question. It is no wonder that quiz nights in the Labor Party have been falling down in recent times!

When Sir Charles Court was Premier, 200 areas were nominated by the then State Government for inclusion on the National Estate, including the Ludlow-Wonnerup area. The Ludlow-Wonnerup area had been recommended by the Conservation Through Reserves Committee to be a national park, and that committee recommended that about 3 000 hectares of private land be acquired and put into a national park. At that time, the Environmental Protection Authority did not recommend that acquisition but suggested that a management arrangement be entered into with those private people. Therefore, the State Government nominated the whole area to go onto the National Estate. At that time, there was not a provision in the Act - one has since been put in - that people who have land in private ownership have to be notified. A person was only notified that his private property was to be listed if the nominator put in his name. In that case, the nominator - being the State Government - made no nomination of any of the private landholders, as a result of which no person in the Ludlow-Wonnerup area whose property was nominated by the Liberal State Government for inclusion in the heritage listing knew that the property was to be listed. The Heritage Commission, therefore, received no objection to the proposed nomination, which was registered on the National Estate listing on 21 March 1978.

I will give the people on this side of the House a second chance: Who was the Premier in 1978? Correct, it was Sir Charles Court! No notification was given to private landowners; there was no consideration of their



circumstances. Members opposite who leap up and announce firmly held Liberal principles in relation to these matters ought to be more careful of their own history.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT - AREA HEALTH MANAGEMENT**  
*Deferment*

17. Mr MINSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have plans for the introduction of area health management to the metropolitan area been abandoned or deferred?
- (2) If such area-isation is only deferred when does the Minister expect to make a decision on its planned introduction?

Mr WILSON replied:

(1)-(2)

The plans previously announced for the establishment of area health boards and to proceed with a legislative base have been deferred on the basis that we have received genuine concerns from representatives of the medical profession - both private practice and public hospitals - from the other health professions and from the teaching hospital boards, about the rate at which the plans were being developed. As a result of those expressions of concern I have had a number of meetings with the AMA, a broad cross-section of the medical profession and the chairpersons of teaching hospital boards. Agreement has been reached on the principles on which the Deloitte report was based and the recommendations of the report. It is only the way in which the recommendations for improvements to metropolitan health services should be introduced and implemented which needs a better consensus. Further discussions have been held between the department, the medical profession and the boards. I will be holding further discussions with the chairmen of the boards, the boards independently, and with the medical profession so that we can develop a consensus for the introduction of the improvements, possibly by way of extension of the existing hospital boards. However, other options are being considered and we await further submissions.

At this stage no timetable has been established because we are engaged in further consultation. However, in view of the positive reaction obtained from the medical profession and hospital boards, I am hopeful that we can make good progress in the next two to three months.

**CRIME (SERIOUS AND REPEAT OFFENDERS) SENTENCING BILL - CAR THEFT AND CHASES REDUCTION EVIDENCE**

18. Mr DONOVAN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of evidence given by the police to the Select Committee on Youth Affairs - long before the Crime (Serious and Repeat Offenders) Sentencing Bill was considered - that the incidence of motor vehicle theft had declined throughout 1991 from 1 793 in January to 1 343 in October; that is, a fall of 25 per cent?
- (2) Is the Premier aware of evidence given to the Select Committee by the police that the number of police pursuits of stolen vehicles had also dropped from a high of 34 in March to a low of seven in October 1991 - a fall of 80 per cent - before the legislation was introduced?
- (3) In view of that evidence does the Premier still hold her publicly stated view that given the significant reduction in car theft and police pursuits the new legislation appears already to be having an impact on serious crime - or words to that effect?
- (4) Will the Premier move immediately to correct any false expectations that may already attach in the public's minds to the new legislation as a result of the similar public statements by both her and the Minister for Police?
- (5) Does the Premier now consider that the legislation is starting to look like a case of unnecessary overkill?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(5)

That is an unfortunate phrase given the circumstances which led to the introduction of the legislation in this Parliament. I will not go through the arguments again. I understand the member's views. Statistics on such things as motor vehicle chases and car thefts need to be monitored carefully. I have no doubt that two events - the establishment of a police task force designed to reduce the incidence of both motor vehicle chases and car thefts and the resultant carnage on the roads, and the announcement of the legislation - have had a salutary effect on some certain members of the community. If the member has any doubts about the police statistics and the relationship with the two events he should talk to the insurance industry and ask it the same question.

**COLLIE COAL FIRED POWER STATION - MITSUBISHI TRANSFIELD**  
*Financial Package - Further Extension Request*

19. Mr C.J. BARNETT to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Has the Mitsubishi-Transfield consortium requested a further and fourth time extension to finalise the financing package and the interim contract for the proposed Collie power station?
- (2) If yes, has the Government or the State Energy Commission agreed to such a request?
- (3) What impact would a further time extension have on the credibility of the project and on the credibility of the original tender process?
- (4) Is the Government totally committed to a coal fired power station in Collie as the next base load power station for Western Australia?

Dr GALLOP replied:

(1)-(3)

Mitsubishi-Transfield has approached a very significant international bank, Goldman Sachs, to obtain advice on the way to put together the finance package for this project.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Did they sack Westpac?

Dr GALLOP: No. Westpac is still very much involved. Goldman Sachs will be advising Mitsubishi-Transfield. In the near future they will advise SECWA on the way Mitsubishi-Transfield can finance the package. The State Energy Commission will consider that advice and pass its recommendations to the Government. We are waiting for that advice. When it comes to hand I will be able to answer the question about the time extension.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Have you given an extension?

Dr GALLOP: No, we are waiting for advice from the developer about the project. The developers have yet to come to the Government with a revised finance package. Until they do, I cannot answer the question.

Mr MacKinnon interjected.

Dr GALLOP: We do not know that until we are approached.

- (4) As to the coal fired power station, it is important to note the background of the Government's position. Through its major agency, SECWA, the Government is looking for a tariff which can produce real reductions in electricity prices in Western Australia for as long a period as possible. I say for as long a period as possible because this is a clue to the advantage that coal has over gas in Western Australia in relation to electricity prices. A 30-year contract will allow us to look to the future with a secure basis for energy tariffs. The precondition for our commitment is that coal must deliver the right price. That is the bottom line for the Government. So far we have been impressed with what we have been offered, not only by the bid but also by the reforms

within SECWA and on the Collie coalfields which are already leading to a reduction in electricity tariffs. Coal produces real benefits for the State, but the bottom line is that the specific tariff offered must be one which can compete with other alternatives.

# **RAILWAYS - KEATING ONE NATION ECONOMIC PACKAGE**

## *Infrastructure Allocation - Midland Workshops Funding*

20. Mr TROY to the Minister for Transport:

I have a three part question in relation to funding of railway infrastructure and the Prime Minister's One Nation statement on 26 February. I ask the question in the context of the \$27 million allocation to Western Australia out of a \$500 million program over two years; that is a mere 5.4 per cent to Western Australia.

- (1) Can the Minister inform the House whether this State sought funding under the Keating One Nation economic package for the upgrading of facilities at the Midland Workshops?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that \$11 million has been granted to Australian National Rail for an upgrading of the South Australian and Tasmanian railway workshops to render the South Australian workshop more competitive in the ongoing 10 year funding of \$1.5 billion that will be advanced to the National Rail Authority for upgrading this country's rail facilities?
- (3) With this knowledge is the Minister concerned that we may have missed the train for Western Australia to compete in future railway manufacturing operations?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

(1)-(3)

I am certainly not concerned that Western Australia has missed the train. I know some money was allocated to ANR and certainly some very intensive lobbying has been going on with the people involved with the National Rail Freight Corporation to ensure that the Midland Workshops has money for infrastructure development. I understand the people involved with the National Rail Freight Corporation have had several meetings and inspections at the Midland Workshops and that submissions have been presented. As a matter of fact, in my most recent meeting with the National Rail Freight Corporation I suggested it would be very unwise to consider that Western Australia would be keen to proceed any further if it could not see any benefits particularly for the Midland Workshops. I think they understood and got my message very clearly. I will be following up that matter on a regular basis to ensure that the needs of the Midland Workshops are met. I cannot give guarantees at this stage because some of those things are very fluid and that is of some concern to this House generally. I know the Opposition has some concerns about the Bill which will certainly be brought to light at the time it is debated. The Government has some concerns too and some matters must be addressed prior to my proceeding with the Bill. However, the most important thing is that in the wash up of the new corporation all States are given some benefits. We must see what the benefits are particularly for employment in Western Australia and the ongoing viability of the Midland Workshops. That is the picture now. That does not mean to say that because funds have not been allocated in the One Nation statement made by the Prime Minister Western Australia will not be able to ensure that money for infrastructure is allocated to Western Australia in the future.