

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 18 April 1985

THE SPEAKER (Mr Harman) took the Chair at 10.45 a.m., and read prayers.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Bannister-Nicholson-Wilfred Roads Intersection: Petition

MR BATEMAN (Canning) [10.47 a.m.]: I present a petition which reads as follows—

To:

The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament Assembled:

We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia will install traffic lights at the corner of Nicholson, Wilfred and Bannister Roads, Canning Vale.

Your petitioners are extremely concerned that brought about by the ever-increasing development in the Canning Vale Industrial Complex the volume of vehicular traffic has dramatically increased with the result that there is an average of one accident per day at this intersection.

As there have been tragic accidents at this intersection your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition bears 739 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the House.

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

(See petition No. 96.)

PRISON: CANNING VALE

Armed Guards: Petition

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [10.49 a.m.]: I present a petition couched in the following terms—

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

We, the undersigned wish you to reconsider your decision of removing armed guards, from Canningvale (Medium Security) Prison.

Due to your decision and the recent breakout of prisoners from this prison, we the PUBLIC are now at greater risk from Dangerous Criminals. 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 319 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the House.

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

(See petition No. 97.)

PORNOGRAPHY: LITERATURE

Distribution: Urgency Motion

THE SPEAKER (Mr Harman): Members, I wish to advise that I have this morning received the following letter from the member for Kalamunda—

Dear Mr Speaker

In accordance with Standing Orders 47 and 48 of the Legislative Assembly, I give notice that at the commencement of the Sitting of the House today, April 18, I wish to move "that the House do now adjourn" for the purpose of debating a matter of urgency, namely—

"THAT this House expresses its alarm at the serious situation which applies with respect to the distribution of pornographic literature in Western Australia brought about by the change in composition of the Advisory Committee appointed under the Indecent Publications Act and the change to the guidelines under which that Committee works."

Mr Speaker this is a matter of public importance and immediate urgency and in my view is properly brought forward within the Standing Orders.

As the House is soon to rise, it will be many weeks before another opportunity will be available for me to raise this matter and during that time the most unsatisfactory situation will go unchecked.

Yours sincerely,

I. D. THOMPSON MLA,
Member for Kalamunda,
April 18 1985.

Seven members having risen in their places.

The SPEAKER: Order! I propose to allow this debate to proceed, the time for which will be one hour, with up to 30 minutes for speakers on my left and with up to 30 minutes for speakers on my right.

MR THOMPSON (Kalamunda) [10.51 a.m.]: Mr Speaker, I thank you for your co-operation in allowing me to raise this matter and in accordance with Standing Orders I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Speaker, I need your further co-operation in respect of two matters. Firstly, I would like your permission to place on the Table of the House, for the information of members, a sample of the material to which I wish to refer during the debate. Secondly, I require your assistance in relation to the people who are present in the public gallery.

I am delighted to see so many people at Parliament today and I am also delighted to see so many school children present who have come to observe the way in which our Parliament works. However, the very nature of the material I want to place before the members renders it necessary for me to ask you, Mr Speaker, to clear the gallery. The material I intend referring to during this debate is material which under the Indecent Publications and Articles Act may not be displayed in the presence of people under the age of 18 years.

I know that is an inconvenience to the people in the gallery, but I am placed in an awkward position of not having the freedom that is necessary to draw this matter to the attention of the House. In those two respects, I seek your assistance, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: It is not my intention to clear the gallery. If the member wants to table papers, that is his prerogative. He must use his judgment in these matters.

Mr Taylor: Make your own judgment on it.

MR THOMPSON: I have made my judgment on it. I will not ask that the material be placed on the Table of the House because I would be—

Mr Tonkin: You are prevented from some cheap stunt, are you?

MR THOMPSON: The Minister refers to this as a cheap stunt. I remind him—

Mr Tonkin: I am not talking about the subject matter, but the way you go about it.

MR THOMPSON: It is not a cheap stunt. I am quite seriously concerned about the matter.

Mr Tonkin: So are we.

Mr Hassell: Well why haven't you done something about it?

Mr Tonkin: We are doing more than you did about it. You were in power for nine years. For nine years you presided over filth. You should have been known as the Minister for Filth.

The SPEAKER: Order!

MR THOMPSON: It is interesting to hear the interjection from the Leader of the House. The fact is that until February 1983 actions in the court were frequently taken for the distribution of pornographic literature. Since February 1983 not one prosecution has occurred. That is what has caused us to bring this very serious matter to the Parliament.

We raised this matter against the background of another thrust that we on this side of the House made in relation to the distribution of pornographic material by the medium of videotape. Members will recall that I raised this matter in this Parliament with respect to hard core pornography being distributed in that way. The Minister for Education replied to the motion that I moved on that occasion. He did not give us any indication that he was sympathetic to the cause that it should be banned. It is significant to note that the Premier of this State, to his credit and that of the Government, did ban X-rated material as a result of the fact that we and others in the community brought that concern to the Parliament. Subsequently, X-rated material has been banned in every State of Australia.

Mr Pearce: Led by Western Australia; led by us.

MR THOMPSON: Led by us, because I raised the matter. It is significant that that X-rated material has been banned everywhere in Australia except Canberra. The only place in Australia where one can lasso a copy of it is in Canberra. We were asked to trust the film censor in Canberra to look after the morals of people in this country. Now every State in the Commonwealth has indicated that it has no confidence in the Censorship Board in Canberra. Each State has demonstrated that by banning X-rated material.

It can be clearly shown that as there have been no prosecutions since 1983, this Government has allowed a situation to prevail which has opened the floodgates for pornographic material to be distributed in this State, with a grave risk to the community. In support of my proposition that it is putting the community at risk, I refer to an article which appeared in *The West Australian* newspaper of 5 April under the headline, "Porn a trigger to crime—Academic".

The article states—

Rapists and child molesters regularly use pornography to incite themselves to go out

and commit violent crimes, says clinical psychologist, Professor Bill Marshall. A West Australian who has worked in Canada for the past 16 years, Professor Marshall assesses and treats sex offenders inside and outside prisons.

He is in Perth as a visiting fellow at the University of WA.

Professor Marshall said his studies showed that more than a third of rapists collected pornography at a high rate. For child molesters the figure was about 80 per cent. A third of each group deliberately and routinely used pornography to psych themselves up to commit their crime.

Professor Marshall is well qualified to comment on the impact of pornographic material circulating within our society. Because of that very situation, I felt constrained to bring this matter to the Parliament. I am sorry that I am not able to display this material. I intend to call a Press conference after this debate and to invite members of the Press to look at this material. I will ask that I be permitted to place this material, which is in brown paper covers, on the Table of the House. I invite members, particularly members opposite, to pick it up and quietly look at it before they make their judgments as to whether they think this material should be available in the community. At present, the censorship procedures that are kept in place by this Government are resulting in this material being made freely available to the community.

Mr Davies: Where did you get it from?

Mr THOMPSON: I bought some of it. I walked into a shop and bought it.

Mr Davies: You are an adult; you are over 18, aren't you?

Mr THOMPSON: That is right. I am over 18.

Mr Davies: Twenty dollars a copy?

Mr THOMPSON: Each copy cost \$19.95. I have to be very accurate about these things.

Mr Hodge: Have you been corrupted?

Mr THOMPSON: I have not been corrupted. The Minister has young children. I am sure that he would not like his children to have access to this material. I ask members to look at the material, because the majority of people in the community never see this stuff.

Mr Davies: That is because its sale is so controlled. They never see the stuff.

Mr THOMPSON: Even if it were around they would not pick it up and would not look at it.

Mr Bryce: You have an unhealthy preoccupation with that type of material; first it was

videos and now this. You're just like the Reverend Nile, the agent of darkness.

Mr THOMPSON: I have a responsibility to my party because I was asked by the Leader of the Opposition to be shadow Minister for family and women's interests. The interests of the family and women are not served by this material. I ask the lady members of this Parliament to look at this material and make up their minds whether it is the type of material that they think should be circulated which could become available to their children. A number of members on this side of the House have young children and I am sure they would be concerned if those children saw this material. I am sure that most members have not seen this type of material. That was evident when I arranged to show some videos of this type some time ago. Not one member of the Government, or members on this side of the House, or any member of the Press who saw the material was prepared to say that it was reasonable for that material to be distributed in the community. I submit that that will be the judgment of those members opposite on this type of material.

Mrs Beggs: What about when your party was in Government? The material was given ratings under your Government.

Mr THOMPSON: It was not.

Government members: It was so.

Mr THOMPSON: Even if that be the case it does not make it right to circulate it, and this stuff is still available. The video "I Spit on your Grave" received an "R" rating and it is still being distributed.

Mrs Beggs: That's because you gave it so much publicity.

Mr THOMPSON: "X"-rated videos have been banned but "R"-rated videos are still available. Nobody who saw that video thought it was reasonable for it to be available.

It is clear from the attitude and demeanour of members opposite, and from their interjections, that they are soft on this issue. When we go to the people at the next election we shall expose—perhaps it might be better to use another word; we shall highlight—the mealy-mouthed attitude of the Government towards this subject.

There are many concerned people in the community and I am expressing concern on their behalf in the Parliament today.

Mr Bryce: You are like an agent of darkness.

Mr THOMPSON: I am not an agent of darkness. I ask an attendant to hand this envelope containing a publication of this nature to the Deputy Premier and I invite him to tell me

whether he thinks it is reasonable for it to be distributed in the community.

I note that the material is too hot for the Deputy Premier to even open the envelope. The members opposite may laugh but it is a very serious matter.

Mr Bryce: The reason for this is very basic: It is not the issue, it is you and your presentation and articulation of it.

Mr THOMPSON: How else would I do it?

Mr Bryce: You have put forward an urgency motion which is a stunt on the last sitting day of the House.

Mr THOMPSON: If we want an indication of how members opposite view this matter we should consider the comments made by the Minister for the Arts who, when asked to comment by Margot Lang for an article later published in *The West Australian* on 5 April, said the following—

“Certainly the photographs in the restricted books are explicit—but really there are only slight variations on the stuff you see in *Playboy*,”...

I have a copy of *Playboy* with me.

Mr Bryce: You have taken up your shadow portfolio with an extraordinary relish.

Mr THOMPSON: Let me assure members that that is not my intention. This copy of *Playboy* is available and is in a classification which does not restrict it from being sold. The Minister for the Arts said that the book in front of the Deputy Premier at the moment is little different from *Playboy*.

Mr Pearce: Are you in favour of banning *Playboy*?

Mr THOMPSON: No.

Mr Pearce: So you think it is okay?

Mr THOMPSON: I am saying that the material depicted in *Playboy* is not the stuff I would want to look at. But, of course, community standards have changed and are always changing and material which is unacceptable today will probably be acceptable tomorrow. The community expects the Government to set standards and it trusts the Government to act in these matters. Members of the public do not want to be involved in looking at this filthy stuff. The Government has a responsibility in this area and it is letting the community down.

A Government member: But you are in favour of *Playboy*?

Mr THOMPSON: I am not personally in favour of it.

A significant turn of events occurred in June 1983 not long after the present Government came into office. There was a significant change in the composition of the membership of the advisory committee. Even more significantly, on 21 June a meeting was held of all Ministers in Australia who had an interest in this subject and as a result of that meeting the guidelines were changed. Since that time there has been an absolute flood of this material and this was highlighted in the article by Margot Lang which stated—

Thousands of sexually explicit books and magazines—once banned in WA—are now available for legal sale with the stamp of Government approval.

That has been brought about because the Labor Governments of Australia have demonstrated that they have no regard for standards. They have changed the rules and, indeed, in this State the Government has changed the composition of the committee to allow the free distribution of material that was once banned. If the majority of people in the community knew that this type of material was available for distribution they would react very vigorously. The community trusts the Government to accept responsibility in this area and the Labor Governments in Australia are sadly letting the people down.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Minister for the Arts) [11.08 a.m.]: I will try to be very calm and quiet about this matter because I must confess I am not terribly *au fait* with it since I have taken this area on only in the last couple of months.

The attitude that has been expressed by the member for Kalamunda today indicates that he is seeking publicity and nothing else. He has not told us how the guidelines have been changed or to what he objects in the change. He has not told us to which of the people on the censorship board he objects or who should be replaced. The member has only laid on the Table of this House some brown paper envelopes. This has all the elements of a person who enjoys some of the perverted approaches to this kind of problem.

Mr Laurance: That is unfair.

Mr DAVIES: He has not told us what he objects to in the alleged change.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr HASSELL: Under Standing Orders all imputations of improper motives, and all personal reflections on members, shall be considered highly disorderly. The member for Kalamunda was subjected to a barrage of interjections suggesting that he was taking some salacious pleasure in bringing forward this matter to the House and it

has now been suggested by the Minister in similar terms by implication.

I suggest it is a breach of Standing Orders and ought to be stopped. The member for Kalamunda, in fulfilment of his public duty, is bringing the matter to the Parliament, and he is doing so because of his responsibilities as a shadow Minister.

Mr Davies: I will not impugn any more if it is going to upset him.

Mr HASSELL: The Minister and his colleagues have been doing it for a quarter of an hour.

The SPEAKER: Some members have various remarks made against them and they take it without any display of wanting to have those remarks withdrawn. Some other members react very quickly, and they must if they want to have an improper imputation withdrawn. They have to do it straightaway. The member for Kalamunda did not ask for any withdrawals at the time. It is now requested that the Minister for Arts withdraw that remark and apologise, and I ask him to do so.

Mr DAVIES: If it has been taken as an imputation directly to the member, I withdraw and apologise.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Mr DAVIES: The member is a man of some honour, but I doubt whether he is a man with some concern as far as this motion goes because he has not indicated, as I repeat, how the guidelines were changed—whether they were made stricter or whether they were eased. He has not indicated why he does not like the people or what is wrong with any of the people on the censorship panel. He has done something I refused to do last week because I did not want to be party to having papers laid on the Table of this House where any member of the public has the right to look at them, and could be offended.

When I answered the question on 4 April to the Leader of the Opposition I refused to table the publications for the very reason I did not want people looking at them under conditions which did not apply outside this House. Now the member has brought them at his own expense to make them public.

Mr Thompson: I even went down there yesterday.

Mr DAVIES: I know the member went down there yesterday. When I replied to the Leader of the Opposition I told him I would be happy for any member to visit the censorship office and have a look at the material which the censors had to assess. They could see material which had been

restricted or approved. I refused to table it because this was a public place and some of the material had to be sold under restricted conditions. But here the member is showing the House and the world at large; he has no regard for the ordinary elements of decency in regard to censorship.

Mr Hassell: Absolute nonsense!

Mr DAVIES: The member can go—

Several members interjected.

Mr DAVIES: I am sorry the Deputy Leader of the Opposition cannot understand that position. This material can be purchased under certain conditions—

Mr Clarko: What are the conditions?

Mr DAVIES: One must be 18 years old.

Mr Clarko: So the public is not allowed to buy it?

Mr DAVIES: One must be 18 years old, the shop has to be licensed and the material itself has to be classified beforehand.

Mr Clarko: So the public does not have access to this sort of material?

Mr DAVIES: They have absolute access to it, but I would not be a party to putting it on the Table of the House here where any person can come and have a free look at it—a free perv, if I may use a colloquialism.

Mr Thompson: It does not have to be classified.

Mr DAVIES: That is absolutely true, but distributors can be prosecuted if they have unclassified material which does not meet the guidelines.

One of the other inhibiting factors is that I believe it costs \$10, \$12 or \$20 a copy for books of about 10 or 12 pages.

Mr MacKinnon: You are saying there is a price on pornography.

Mr DAVIES: The member makes some silly statements. I am trying to point out that the Opposition has not substantiated the need for an urgent discussion on this. By the same token—

Several members interjected.

Mr DAVIES: Members opposite really are acting like children. I would like a very sane discussion on pornography, but words like "filth" and all the rest of it are coming up. It does not please people, that is absolutely true, but no-one is forced to look at it and buy it.

Mr Clarko: That is a very poor argument.

Mr Thompson: Why have censorship? Why is anything done?

Mr DAVIES: I find this kind of argument very depressing and very hard to answer because apparently the Opposition is now suggesting that there should be a flood of this material. Let me start off by saying that had Margot Lang not written that article, nothing would have happened. Incidentally, I spoke to her for about half an hour about pornography and censorship. I was concerned to find she used only that one quote of mine, because I thought we discussed it fairly sensibly. Some of the material which is classified comprises only variations of what one can see unrestricted on public counters.

The member for Kalamunda points almost with a wink and nod across the Table. We know what kind of material he has; I see it every week and I ban it every week after the censorship board sends it up to me. Where there is any disagreement among the members I have to make the decision. He is not showing me anything I do not see. It is distasteful to many to say the least.

The member is not the only person concerned with the morals of the community. We all have some concern and responsibility, but we try to deal with it in a sensible and sane manner. This is the kind of sensationalism which does more to promote the problem than to heal it.

The Liberal Party has always adopted this Mother Grundy attitude, and has always gone for sensationalism. One only has to look at cases like *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and Mary McCarthy's book. Several chapters of Mary McCarthy's book were read into *Hansard*, by, I believe, the Liberal Attorney General of the day in Victoria and *Hansard* immediately became a best-seller. The book was banned, but one could read it in *Hansard*. This was done by a Liberal member of Parliament.

Mr Brian Burke: I'll bet they were bored with the rest of it.

Mr DAVIES: They probably were. This shows how irresponsible some Liberal members of Parliament are, and the member for Kalamunda is just as irresponsible by highlighting the problem which he would have known nothing about had he not read Margot Lang's article.

Mr Thompson: So she is irresponsible!

Mr DAVIES: Oh dear! Just let me say that if members could have shown me how the guidelines had been altered in some way to make the position worse I would have been delighted to hear it. The member merely said the guidelines were altered. If he had said any of the seven people on the Indecent Publications Board were not properly qualified to be on that board I would have listened to what he had to say and I would have had a look

at their qualifications. Some of them have been on the board for something like seven years and more.

I have been responsible for appointing only one person, who was a solicitor and a mother of two. She is a professional person and she had the attributes of being a housewife as well as having a professional background. If at any time the member wants to write to me about any of the members on the Indecent Publications Board with, say, a claim that qualifications are not acceptable, I will be delighted to hear from him.

From January 1984, arising from a meeting which had taken place in 1983, the guidelines were set so that they would be the same in all States. The following statement was made in a Press release by the Commonwealth Attorney General—

As to printed matter, apart from the limited categories—child pornography and similarly very extreme material—that would be refused classification altogether, publications will be classified as either:

- Unrestricted
- Restricted (Category 1) or,
- Restricted (Category 2).

Special conditions will apply to the display, sale and hire of publications that are classified as Restricted Category 1 (no sale to minors, sealed packages etc) or Category 2 (limited access sales area etc). There will be an effective prohibition on the display, sale or hire of those publications that are refused classification altogether.

In reply to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition I indicated that the guidelines were—

- (a) Material which depicts child pornography, bestiality, the promotion or encouragement of terrorism, abuse of hard drugs and sexual violence is refused classification.
- (b) Material which depicts sexually explicit activity or fetishes involving consenting adults is classified as restricted.

The guidelines are rather stringent. However, they are only guidelines and each of these publications is looked at by the censorship board and four people must arrive at a decision on the material. If there is any disagreement as to the classification which should be awarded to it, the matter is referred to me. If that occurs, and a decision has been made in which three members of the board favour restricting the material and one member does not, I go with the majority. If the decision is split evenly with two members of the board favouring restriction and two not, I adopt the

harsher option. That is my general policy and it is the way in which I have worked.

I do not have to make decisions of that nature very frequently, because the board adopts a sensible attitude and ensures that material is categorised properly into the classifications I have just detailed.

A great deal more of this material is coming through now than previously. Margot Lang talked in her article about a "flood" of this material. I do not know whether the people who publish it have suddenly found a market in Australia and, therefore, want to ensure that people here do not miss out, or whether the general attitude to this material is any different from that which was held previously.

Mr Thompson: The stuff which is coming in now would have been prohibited had it been brought in before 1983.

Mr DAVIES: When I was Minister for Health I had to obtain some pornographic material from customs in order that it could be released and used in experiments with people who had certain problems. Customs sent me material which had been banned. It was interesting to note the change in that material between 1939 and 1972. I am sure that even the member for Kalamunda would have laughed at some of the material which was banned on the basis that it was objectionable in 1939.

Attitudes change, but there will always be an element of the population who want to be able to read what they desire and who believe that, if they do so in the privacy of their own homes and do not force the material on anyone else, they should have the right to do so.

Constantly I receive approaches from groups of people who want to have sexually explicit videos and other material made available, and I am not taking any action on the matter at present. The whole issue is under review. As the member probably knows, recently the Commonwealth conducted an inquiry into the classification of videos and the report of that inquiry was tabled on 28 March. I have not yet had the opportunity to peruse that report.

It is safe to say that the classification system is based on two principles which are, firstly, that adult persons are entitled to read and view what they wish and, secondly, that all persons are entitled to protection from exposure to unsolicited material which they find offensive. If they desire, people are entitled to read that material, but others must be protected from it.

To a greater extent than its predecessors, this Government has taken action to ensure that the material to which people have access is controlled

and that they may read what they want to read if they so desire; but steps have been taken so that such material cannot simply be bought off the shelf from the corner shop. The material must be sought out and asked for specifically. Outlets must be licensed.

I am quite certain that the member for Kalamunda had to ask specifically for all of the material contained in the brown envelopes he tabled. Initially it would have been necessary for him to find a shop with a licence to sell such material. It would have been necessary for the member to ask to see what was available and then to make his selection.

Mr Thompson: I did not have to ask what was available, because about 30 of these magazines were displayed in the shop.

Mr DAVIES: Was this material displayed in a restricted area of one of those "love shops"? Once again, I am not able to speak from experience in these areas. Evidently the member for Kalamunda knew where to obtain this material.

Mr MacKinnon: As the Minister responsible, it is time you went and had a look at what is available.

Mr DAVIES: I know what is available, because it comes across my desk.

Mr MacKinnon: You obviously don't know how it is available and you have just indicated that.

Mr DAVIES: It is available from particular shops. Various shops are famous for the lingerie, sexual aids, and the like, which they sell. I must confess that I have not visited one of these shops.

Mr Thompson: I seriously suggest that you do so.

Mr DAVIES: I do not want to.

Mr Thompson: I did not want to either!

Mr DAVIES: This material comes across my desk and the police are responsible for taking action. People are entitled to read what they want. If in fact no prosecutions have taken place—I do not know whether that is correct—that can be attributed to the satisfactory way in which the censorship system is working, and that means that people do not have ready access to this material.

When the member visited this "love shop", did he have to wait at the door to get in? Were a number of people there?

Mr Thompson: There were people there.

Mr DAVIES: How many people?

Mr Thompson: Three or four.

Mr DAVIES: Would that include the shop assistants?

Mr Thompson: No.

Mr MacKinnon: What difference does that make?

Mr DAVIES: It probably has nothing to do with it, but I do not have time to do this. We have a Police Force—

Mr Thompson: Members of which are very concerned about the situation.

Mr DAVIES: That has not been made evident to me, and I do not think it has been made evident to the Minister.

Although the member for Kalamunda may personally feel very strongly about the material, he has not made out any kind of case in this respect. All he is saying is, "I have stuff here which no-one should be entitled to read". Let us return to the days of burning books!

Mr Thompson: What I am saying is that material is available now which could not have been sold two or three years ago.

Mr DAVIES: The member for Kalamunda has not indicated the way in which the guidelines have been changed and the aspects to which he objected. He has not said what he does not like about the manner of distribution of this material, the way in which it is controlled, and how censorship of it operates. If the member for Kalamunda wanted to make out a case, he would have shown where the Government was at fault. The Government has reappointed to the censorship panel some of the people who were previously involved in this area and appointed by it.

The member for Kalamunda spoke about "significant changes" occurring, but he has not told me what they are. If the member for Kalamunda believes the principles on which the system is based are wrong, he should tell us that, but all he has said is, "I have some brown paper envelopes. I now have the attention of the Press. I want to put them on the Table of the House". That is something I would not have done. Any member can call into the censorship office and look at that material, but I would not have tabled it, because regardless of whether or not adults only are involved, I do not want people to be subjected to having to look at this whether or not they want to because in the course of their duties they have to process it.

Apart from that, the censorship office does not keep a supply of it. The material comes in, is classified and then goes out again. The censorship office does not keep a large stock of material to make available for members of Parliament to look at or to table. That would seem silly to me.

Everyone is concerned about this problem, particularly where it affects children. I am anxious to hear from the Opposition what aspect of control it does not like. I am interested to know whether the Opposition can show me what changes have been made. I do not want members opposite just to say that the changes are bad, that we should get rid of them and in the meantime burn the material. They must understand that some people believe they should have the right to read what they want. Whether members opposite read it is up to them. Getting into a debate about burning books is not the way to approach the problem.

We realise there may be deficiencies and that there is a need constantly to monitor this matter. However, I would have expected from the Opposition a better treatise than the one presented today.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [11.31 a.m.]: The Minister has very quickly demonstrated by his remarks two things: Firstly, that he simply does not know what is going on within his portfolio responsibilities. He said that he only came to the portfolio recently, but if he goes back through the debates of this House and looks at the papers which have been quoted in relation to Commonwealth censorship and other procedures now being applied, he will know there is a very serious problem and that there has been a very significant change. The Government, despite having been put on the rack about this matter on a number of occasions, has done nothing.

The second thing the Minister illustrated was that he has a totally libertarian approach to this matter and does not believe in any control.

Point of Order

Mr DAVIES: If imputations are going to be made I need to make it clear that I have said nothing of the sort of thing the Leader of the Opposition has implied. He is impugning my integrity by saying that I do not want any control and believe there should be an open go for everyone.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Mr HASSELL: The Minister demonstrated by the attitude he adopted throughout the debate that he did not believe in any effective system of control. I took note of what he said at one stage. He indicated that one of the basic principles on which he was operating was that adult persons were entitled to review and read what they want.

Mr Davies: I didn't say that.

Mr HASSELL: That is what he said formed the basis of the way he was operating.

Let us look at some of the material in this classification formation. Let us start asking this Minister whether he believes a system which allows the availability of books about perversion with animals is something that adults should have the right to review and read in our society, or might it be that our society would be totally corrupted and undermined by having that sort of material available?

What about the material dealing with sexual perversion and abuse of children, material which is freely and extensively available in places where it is not controlled? Is that something that adults should be entitled to review and read, or is that something the Government would like to put a stop to, but has not?

The third category is the perversion of sexuality. Is that something that should be freely available for adults to be entitled to review and read, to use the words of the Minister?

I could go through the spectrum of this material, and having been the Chief Secretary, I have had to deal with it in the past. There is animal perversion, sexual abuse and perversion of children, sexual perversion, homosexuality, unusual heterosexual practices explicitly displayed, explicit sex, soft porn material, partially explicit material, and then there is material which is simply what might be termed salacious material. Across the spectrum there is material that all right-thinking people believe should not be available.

What the member for Kalamunda has said today and what he has come to this House about specifically today is the fact that the Government is allowing much more material to be available than was available in the past and that it is doing nothing about it despite the fact that the problem has been drawn to its attention. To demonstrate the availability of that material the member for Kalamunda went into a number of shops and other places simply to find out what was available on the shelves. To illustrate to the House what was available he brought the material here in a totally legitimate course of action to bring public attention to a serious issue.

I point out to the member for Whitford, who is currently not in the Chamber, but who tried to say that this material had been available when I was the Chief Secretary, that she is wrong.

The situation is this: Under the legislation as it applies, the Minister has to approve of each prosecution. I do not know why it is so, but that is the law. I used to receive a bundle of complaints at regular intervals—it may have been fortnightly or

monthly—bundles about two inches thick, and as the Minister I had to go through and sign every one to give approval. Those prosecutions took place; I did not reject any; I never put a stop to any in my time as Chief Secretary.

What the member for Kalamunda has said—I emphasise he was speaking on behalf of the Opposition—is that there is now but a trickle of prosecutions, or none at all. This is because the Government has made a decision and been involved in a decision which has allowed this floodgate to be opened and to remain open. That is the critical point. We are now over two years into the reign of this Government and it has had plenty of time to correct the wrongs it has done if it had the will to do so. But it does not have the will and it is clear why it does not have the will. It is because of the attitude of the Minister in charge of these matters—the very soft, libertarian attitude of the Minister.

The Minister challenged us to say what has been changed, so I will tell him: Two critical decisions have been made which represent the change. The first was that at a meeting of Ministers in Canberra in June 1983 it was agreed there would be a new national uniform censorship system. Involved in that meeting was the then Minister who was Hon. David Parker. He agreed to that uniform national system.

That decision in 1983 was associated with a decision which was not publicised at the time, but rather was deliberately kept secret. That decision was that there be a change in the standards. So it was not only a difference of a new national uniform system but it was also a less restrictive system. That emerged in February 1984 when the Commonwealth published its guidelines. I have brought those guidelines to the House before and publicised them here. If the Minister wants to, he could look through the debates and see where I did that.

The fact is that the Government deliberately and as a matter of policy set out to bring about a uniform system based on reliance on the Commonwealth approach, which has always been softer on these matters than the State. Secondly, it set out to lower the standard.

I say positively that what this Government could do if it had the will was to take over control of the matter again and introduce State standards.

MR PEARCE (Armadale—Minister for Education) [11.40 a.m.]: In all that diatribe the member for Kalamunda appears to overlook the fact that with regard to "X"-rated videos and positive action emanating from steps taken with regard to controls on undesirable material, the Western

Australian Labor Government has led the way. In fact, the action we took with regard to "X"-rated videos has heralded an Australia-wide clampdown on undesirable material of that kind, but this is an issue which the Government believes needs to be treated sensitively and with a great deal of discretion and care and not by way of political stunts.

This Parliament has been sitting since early in February and in the dying hours of its life an urgency motion has been moved leaving a minimum one hour discussion so that members cannot possibly contribute at least essentially—

Several members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: The Opposition has had many weeks in which to put before the Parliament a considered proposition with respect to this matter and to have it properly debated by members and to give members the chance to have a vote on the course of action which members believe should be followed. The Opposition has avoided that possibility and has sought to use a totally inappropriate parliamentary tactic whereby the Opposition spokesman—God help us—on family affairs, tables pornography in order to draw it to our attention and to publicise it in this State. The dilemma that is involved in this whole matter is the dilemma that was revealed when the member for Kalamunda spoke because material that he seeks to table was obtained by his entering shops clearly labelled "Restricted to persons over 18 years old", and purchasing magazines contained in brown covers from under counters. He was prepared to accept those brown paper covered pictures, yet *Playboy* is on display in newsagencies for any four-year-old child to see. The member for Kalamunda said that was OK because the community standard accepts and allows that kind of thing. I bet some people in the community would take the opposite attitude, that is to say, they want proper control and regulation, but not the total ban of some forms of material, so that adults can make some decisions for themselves; but they would object strongly to four-year-old children going into a newsagency to buy a Donald Duck comic and being confronted with full frontal nudity on the front cover of *Playboy* or *Penthouse*. People who have a sense of protection for their children might object very strongly to those sorts of practices, as they did in the time of the former Liberal Government. The member for Kalamunda thinks that is perfectly OK. The dilemma that is involved in that is one of community standards, and it is quite the case that community standards do shift and change. The Minister responsible made that point quite clear when he pointed out some of the controversies of the past.

Mr Clarko: Why don't you tell us what you think?

Mr PEARCE: I am telling the member what I think now. It seems so strange now; it is a question of community standards, and in order to properly control undesirable material and to eliminate it as far as possible from Western Australia, we are not served well by the kinds of irresponsible, ratbag, extremist statements made by the Leader of the Opposition with regard to this matter, leaping onto every extremist bandwagon that is going around. The Leader of the Opposition referred to a whole host of pornographic material which he says is widely available within Western Australia, most of which is totally banned. In fact, he obtained his list from the host of petitions that were put around the community with regard to X-rated videos which we have already banned in this State. The kind of material to which the Leader of the Opposition referred is not available in this State, even under the kind of restricted circumstances that the member for Kalamunda was prepared to go through in order to get that kind of material. It does not do the debate on this matter any good for the public to be misled about the steps that need to be taken to isolate all the restricted material that is available. It is not as if one can go into a newsagency and obtain these sorts of publications. Even in the restricted area, it is still the case that most undesirable material is completely banned in Western Australia and should stay that way.

It is important to have national standards in these areas because if differences exist between the States everybody knows that it leads to a movement of material from State to State, depending on the different standards of material available. In the short time since we had notice of the motion, I studied the personal pages of the *Sunday Times*—from the time of the Liberal Government—and discovered that under the same kind of brown paper wrapper in which the member for Kalamunda brought the material to Parliament House, in the days of the Liberal Government one could have similar material mailed on any Sunday through subscription to other States, notably Queensland. This could be done through the personal columns of the *Sunday Times*. Nothing was done about that situation in the days when the Liberal Government was in power. The matter was not addressed. One of the reasons that there has been a lower level of prosecution these days is because the establishment of these standards and the banning of "X"-rated videos and the like has meant that the guidelines are clearly known, so that there is not the need for pros-

ecutions to be the basis upon which community standards are judged.

Mr Clarko: You lowered the standard.

Mr PEARCE: We have not lowered the standard. We have raised it. In the old days many a newsagent would approach the police to seek advice on what was acceptable to the community standard. The police would always refuse to comment. It has come to the attention of this Parliament, one way or another, that under the Liberal Government newsagents would go to the police and say, "Is this material acceptable, or not?" The police would say, "I cannot tell you that". The material was put on the shelves and the police would come around the next day and raid that newsagency for putting those magazines on the shelves. That was the way the Liberal Government worked. We are concerned with eliminating undesirable material from the reach of the people of WA. This material is totally undesirable and totally antisocial. At the same time we understand that the people of Western Australia are not simply morons or blank pages whose crucial decisions about what they read and what they deal with are to be made purely in this place. We understand that mature adults in Western Australia are mature adults and they can make many of those decisions for themselves in those areas where we might argue about the nature of the community standard.

Mr Blaikie: Are you still speaking from your—

Mr PEARCE: The member for Vasse would be the last one to talk. As soon as the member for Kalamunda produced those envelopes the member for Vasse scuttled around to the closest possible seat in order to see them. He got hold of every brown envelope. He asked the member for Kalamunda to retrieve the one he gave to the Deputy Premier so that he could have a better look. What a disgraceful performance that was!

Several members interjected.

Mr Hassell: So what?

Mr PEARCE: Listen to that. The Leader of the Opposition says, "So what". So what if the member for Vasse wants to go through this pornographic material. The member for Kalamunda is saying no one in this State should be going through this pornographic material. The member for Vasse and members of the Opposition are leading the rush.

Our concern is to ensure that the material available in Western Australia properly reflects the community standard of mature adults being able to make their own judgments in these areas when arguments about community standards might arise. Those things which are totally beyond the

pale we have moved to ban and regulate. We have seen today in this Parliament a cheap political stunt where the member for Kalamunda, not for the first time, sought to use the sensational aspects of pornographic literature to get votes for the Liberal Party. In my view that is the most disgusting and depraved use that can be made of this material.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Continuation: Motion

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [11.49 a.m.]: I move—

That unless otherwise ordered, The Select Committee into Small Claims Tribunals, the Select Committee into the Grape Growing Industry in Western Australia and the Parliamentary Privilege Select Committee appointed during this current session of Parliament, be so appointed without further authority being required other than this resolution, for the duration of the Thirty-First Parliament.

This motion is necessary because Select Committees of the House die with the session. It seems to me that we should probably examine the Standing Orders. We should decide whether Select Committees appointed during the life of a Parliament should continue after the end of that Parliament rather than that we have to bring motions like this to the House, because a Select Committee should exist until the House decides that it is no longer needed.

There may be difficulties with that but I cannot envisage any. Standing Orders require that the Select Committees will wither on the vine, as the member for Vasse so wittily puts it, if it were not for this motion. We think it is desirable that the three committees, one of which was established only last night, should continue. The Parliament does not have long to run; if it runs its full course it will last until early next year so we are extending the life of the Select Committees for only less than a year. We believe that is a desirable state of affairs, and that is why I have moved the motion.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.51 a.m.]: The Opposition will not oppose this motion, but I want to make a couple of comments prior to its being passed. I want to refer to two of the committees, the Select Committee into the Grape Growing Industry in Western Australia and the Parliamentary Privilege Select Committee.

The Opposition parties and I are particularly disappointed that the grape growing industry inquiry has to be extended and has not yet reported. I am aware it has not been in place for long, but its work is vitally important. Some issues are very much in the forefront of the industry at the present time and if the committee had been able to produce an interim report at this stage it would have been of great value.

For example, Parliament is not likely to sit between now and the taxation summit, and I would have thought it most appropriate that the committee should make representations or put its view to the summit about the impact of tax on its industry. It is disappointing that that will not be the case. It is also important, as I am sure the Government is aware, to realise that the Federal Government is now reviewing its Budget options for 1985-86. I am aware that Senator Walsh has commented about the possible effects of a wine tax. I would like to think this committee could have made some representations or recommendations to the Government in that regard.

The Opposition parties have already written to the Federal Government seeking an assurance that there will be no increase in the wine tax in the Budget.

Mr Tonkin: Have your members on the committee moved in that direction?

Mr MacKINNON: I am not aware of what they have done. I am saying it is disappointing that the committee's work has not progressed to the stage of producing an interim report which would enable a submission to go to the taxation summit and to the Federal Government in relation to the preparation of its Budget. I am indicating what action the Opposition has taken to ensure that its views are put before the Federal Government in relation particularly to the wine tax.

The second point I wish to raise relates to the so-called Parliamentary Privilege Select Committee. This motion allows that committee to sit right through the intervening break when Parliament is in recess. I remind members as I did last night, that unless we move a motion today—and I have not seen any evidence that that will happen—or on the day Parliament resumes for a one-day sitting, the committee will have nothing to consider. The motion we debated last night was meaningless and a piece of grandstanding *par excellence*.

It is also interesting to note that the Leader of the House did not have the courtesy to follow Standing Orders in relation to the appointment of the committee. Standing Order 355 states—

Members to serve on a Select Committee shall be nominated by the mover; but if any Member of the House so demands, they shall be selected by ballot.

The member for Mitchell moved the motion and the Leader of the House moved the motion last night to place the members on the committee.

It is a tragedy that the real question of parliamentary privilege in which we have a great interest will not be dealt with in the intervening break between parliamentary sessions, and the Standing Orders Committee will not have time to address it and come back with what I believe would have been a proper report so we could examine the whole question of privilege. I repeat that this motion was a stunt of the worst possible kind where the Government is tampering with the rules of this Parliament without any consideration for the feelings or thoughts of members on both sides of the House. It was nothing more or less than an attempt to stifle debate in the Parliament. With those few words I indicate that the Opposition will be pleased to support the motion.

Question put and passed.

SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS: SELECT COMMITTEE

Leave to Sit: Motion

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [11.56 a.m.] I move—

That pursuant to Standing Order 366 leave be granted to enable the Select Committee inquiring into the Small Claims Tribunals to sit during the sitting of the House on Friday 19 April 1985, in the event that the House sits on that day.

Friday 19 April is tomorrow. I do not expect the House will sit tomorrow, but the chairman of the committee (the member for Mitchell) was concerned that many appointments had been made and people are being called to appear before the committee, and he wanted to be able to do that if the House sat. Our Standing Orders preclude such a sitting unless a motion like this is moved.

I am hopeful we will rise before dinner tonight, and I would like to indicate that as far as I am concerned, the Government is appreciative of the co-operation it has received from the Opposition in the last few days. We had quite a few Bills to get through and we have been able to do that without sitting very late. The fact that we are in a position to rise this afternoon indicates the degree of co-operation that exists between the Government and Opposition, in spite of the fulminations of the Leader of the Opposition who for some strange personal reasons seems to want to prove that the

House is badly mismanaged and that there is friction between the two sides. I do not think that is so. I find the Deputy Leader of the Opposition a very good person to work with. I hope that does not damn him too much.

Mr MacKinnon: The kiss of death!

Mr TONKIN: There was another gem I was going to drop for the edification of members opposite.

Mr Brian Burke: They are pearls before swine.

Mr TONKIN: Modesty has always been one of my strong points.

Mr MacKinnon: You were praising the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr TONKIN: There has been a considerable degree of co-operation between both sides of the House, and I hope that continues. The point I was going to make is that we will not be rising for good this session because there is such a thing as the Legislative Council and it goes into a frenzy of activity when there is a Labor Government. Mess-ages will be coming back to this House.

Mr Clarko: It does not happen often.

Mr TONKIN: No, it was asleep for 12 years and Opposition members should be ashamed they were taking a salary for nothing. That gerrymandered upper House will be amending some Bills and will be sending messages back to this place, so we will have to come back and deal with those messages. I am not sure whether that will be next week or the week after. When I say we are expecting to rise this afternoon it is with the caveat that we will have to come back for a one-day sitting because of the fact that the Legislative Council operates only when there is a Labor Government.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.59 a.m.]: The Opposition will not oppose the motion. As the Leader of the House has indicated, we anticipate we will not be sitting tomorrow and we hope that is the case as long as the Government keeps its remarks temperate and not intemperate as it is sometimes wont to do.

We reject totally the remarks of the Leader of the House in relation to the Legislative Council. We see that House as exercising its just democratic rights at present. This week we have seen it exercise very good judgment in rejecting the Aboriginal land rights legislation, which move has been applauded from one end of this State to the other. I am sure the people of Western Australia are once again thankful that they have a House of Review in this State which they will have as long

as there is a Liberal Party in this State to protect the rights and interests of Western Australians.

Question put and passed.

SUPPLY BILL

Third Reading

Debate resumed from 17 April.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Treasurer) [12.01 p.m.]: I have been made aware of the remarks of some of the members who contributed to this debate during my absence. I understand too, Mr Speaker, that your ruling precludes me from replying to many of those points raised. I had not intended to reply to most of them because they were general comments about a variety of issues that had been previously traversed by most members and which really, in the retelling, did not contain much more breadth than had previously been the case. In any case, I understand your ruling, Mr Speaker, related to the third reading debate and the opportunity presented itself, in a narrow sense, to raise particular matters.

The one matter that I intend to raise within the Standing Orders is that which the Leader of the Opposition raised and relates to the Treasurer's advance and the amount of money that was being made available for that purpose in this Supply Bill.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to an amount of \$80 million compared to an amount of \$60 million provided for previously. I referred this matter to the Department of Treasury and I was informed that the estimate was based on the total funding for all public accounts; that is, suspense accounts, overdrawn trust account, and the Treasurer's advance account.

Although the amount of \$80 million represents a substantial increase, the advance to the Treasurer fluctuates during the year and is considered essential to accommodate normal transactions in the public accounts. That means that the \$80 million is also estimated; but there is another factor to be considered. It is simply the Under Treasurer's estimation of the fluctuations that might occur and which need to be accommodated during the year. The situation could arise whereby an advance is provided for a period of one month which is to be recouped from the Commonwealth. These are of a temporary nature but must have the force of law to enable the public account to be legally drawn upon.

That would explain the situation completely if it required explanation but the Leader of the Opposition should understand that there is no reason for explanation because the total amount of the 1984-85 appropriation account for the advance to the

Treasurer was \$110 million. The Under Treasurer advises me that the amount fluctuates throughout the year.

The Leader of the Opposition was referring, specifically, to one Supply Bill which may lose its present character or identity in terms of its excess over the \$60 million provided for in the previous Supply Bill when the total year's advances are taken into account. As an indication of what can occur, I have quoted the 1984-85 total appropriation which is \$110 million. Naturally, the requirement for the advance to the Treasurer is not evenly spread over the financial year. That explains why we may well end up in 1985-86 with a figure less than or more than \$110 million.

If the figure of the total amount in the 1985-86 Appropriation Bill for advance to the Treasurer exceeds \$110 million—it may, for example, be \$120 million—that would be explained when the Appropriation Bill is introduced. It will go to the absolute amount that is involved.

That is the explanation. It is an accommodation by the Treasury of the anticipated fluctuations and it is not attributed to anything specific that has been earmarked as being necessarily the subject of a Treasurer's advance.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Standing Orders Suspension

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [12.05 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable me to move a motion in respect of the Australian Constitutional Convention.

I will not read the motion out at this stage because it is a long one and I will have to read it out later. Once will be enough because I am not given to very long speeches as members well know, at least not all the time. I understand that we have received the co-operation of the Opposition on this matter. In fact, the Opposition has caused the necessity for this procedure because I was not able to obtain from it the names of the members involved so that we could formalise this motion and present it. We have been held up badly, otherwise we could have given notice of this motion and presented it in the normal way.

Mr Hassell: Are you aware that the reason for the delay in the names being available was that there was correspondence between Hon. Ian

Medcalf and Hon. Des Dans, who is primarily responsible, and we were awaiting a final reply from Mr Dans? That is the only reason for the delay.

Mr TONKIN: That may be one version. I asked the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the names and did not get anywhere. I then said that I would move the motion including only the names of the ALP members who were to go to the convention. I then got the other names.

Mr Hassell: I think you asked the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on Tuesday of this week. We are going back many weeks in terms of correspondence.

Mr TONKIN: Okay. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, it is not my wont to wrangle over matters like that. Whatever the reasons, we have at least got to the stage where we need to move for the suspension of Standing Orders so that I can, without notice, move the substantive motion. I welcome the co-operation of all members.

Question put.

The **SPEAKER**: To be carried, this motion requires an absolute majority. I have counted the House. As there is not an absolute majority in the Chamber I require that the bells be rung.

Bells rung.

The **SPEAKER**: After putting the question that the motion be agreed to and there being no dissentient voice, I declare the motion carried.

Question thus passed.

Motion

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [12.09 p.m.]: I thank the House for its indulgence. I move the following motion—

Whereas it is desirable that the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia should by resolution declare its will in regard to the continued participation of the parliament in the Australian Constitutional Convention and make such decisions consequent thereupon as may seem appropriate: **NOW THEREFORE**, the Legislative Assembly resolves to continue to participate in the Australian Constitutional Convention and further resolves:

1. That for the purposes of the Convention—
 - (a) the delegation from the Parliament of Western Australia should consist of 8 members of whom 4 should be appointed by the Legislative As-

- sembly and 4 by the Legislative Council;
- (b) the members appointed by the Legislative Assembly shall comprise—
 - (i) 2 members from the Australian Labor Party; and
 - (ii) 2 members from the Liberal party;
and
 - (c) the members appointed by the Legislative Council shall comprise—
 - (i) 2 members from the Australian Labor Party; and
 - (ii) 2 members from the Liberal Party.
2. That an appointed member of the delegation shall cease to be an appointed member—
 - (a) subject to section 5 of the Constitutional Convention Act 1974, if he ceases to be a member of the Parliament of Western Australia;
 - (b) if the House of Parliament by which he has been appointed terminates his appointment; or
 - (c) if he resigns as a member of the delegation in writing addressed to the President of the Legislative Council or the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, as the case requires.
 3. That the members appointed by the Legislative Assembly shall be—

The Hon. B. T. Burke
The Hon. A. R. Tonkin
Mr W. R. B. Hassell
The Hon. A. Mensaros
 4. That the Premier or his nominee be Leader of the delegation, and the Leader of the Opposition or his nominee be Deputy Leader of the delegation.
 5. That where, because of illness or other cause, a member of the delegation is unable to attend a meeting, or a session of a meeting, of the Convention, or of a committee of the convention or of a sub-committee or working party of such a committee, the leader or senior available member of the party from which that member is drawn may appoint an alternative member, and the member so appointed shall be a member of the delegation for that meeting or session.
 6. That where an appointed member of the delegation ceases to be an appointed member the leader or senior available member of the party from which that member was drawn may appoint an acting member and the member so appointed shall be a member of the delegation until the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly, as the case requires, appoints a member to fill the vacancy.
 7. That the Leader of the delegation shall, from time to time, make a report to the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly respectively of such information and matters arising out of the Convention as he thinks fit, and any such report shall be laid on the Table of each House of Parliament.
 8. That the Leader and Deputy Leader of the delegation, or their respective nominees, be appointed to represent the delegation on the Convention's Executive Committee.
 9. That the Honourable the Attorney General be asked to provide such assistance to the delegation as it may require.
 10. That the Legislative Council be informed of this resolution and invited to continue its participation in the Convention on the basis outlined herein.
- That is the motion. The idea behind the Constitutional Convention to try to update the Constitution of Australia is a noble one and is required in many serious ways.
- I think that the Australian people do not have a very proud record to look back on. We see other countries which are loosely described as belonging to the western world, which have updated their Constitution from time to time, but the conservative forces in this country see too many advantages—
- Mr Hassell: What changes have there been in America and Canada?
- Mr TONKIN: There have been considerable changes in Canada and in the United States. The Leader of the Opposition would be aware of the many amendments made to the United States Constitution.
- Mr Hassell: There have been very few.
- Mr TONKIN: It is a large number by our standards, but perhaps very few if one uses an absolute

standard. Canada has made important changes to its Constitution.

The point of the matter is that the conservative forces in Australia have seen too many advantages residing in the continued unalteration of the Constitution. I believe we should pursue this matter very seriously. At the last Constitutional Conference in Adelaide we saw an absolute scandalous rigging of the numbers by the Premier of Queensland, Bjelke-Petersen, and that made it a farce. At the time I wondered if there was any point in having a Constitutional Convention if certain Governments were going to act in a dishonourable fashion.

The Australian Labor Party in this State, other States, and the Commonwealth, have not done that—they have not followed the path trodden by Bjelke-Petersen. In this resolution there is provision for equality for the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party.

The fact of the matter is that this is a balanced delegation and if we are to get anywhere it should be balanced.

I hope that this time at the Constitutional Convention we will not see at a national level the disgraceful gerrymander of Queensland. It brings a great deal of shame to Australia and I hope that one day the conservatives will realise that that kind of trickery that has been indulged in for so long will not be acceptable to Australia if it wants to hold its head high and be regarded as a genuine democracy.

I am delighted to bring this motion before the House because it will provide a balance which we believe in. If the kind of rigging of numbers which occurred in Adelaide at the last Constitutional Convention occurs so that resolutions of the conference are predetermined because of the way in which the delegations have been rigged, in my opinion—I am not speaking for the Government because it has not adopted an attitude in this regard—I would be in favour of cancelling the whole idea of a Constitutional Convention. It will not work without goodwill or without basic honesty and it seems to me that the Government of Queensland does not have that basic honesty.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [12.17 p.m.]: I want to ask a question of the Leader of the House and he might give me an answer by way of interjection. I understand that the motion was prepared by the Crown Law Department and I ask if it is in the same form as similar motions which have come before the House.

Mr Tonkin: I understand that it is, but I have not compared it with previous motions.

Mr HASSELL: There is no change in the policy approach in regard to the motion?

Mr Tonkin: No.

Mr HASSELL: The Opposition supports the motion and supports, as did the Government of Sir Charles Court and the Government of Hon. Ray O'Connor, the proposition that the delegation should be equally balanced as has been proposed on this occasion.

The Leader of the House made a number of remarks which I do not wish to debate now. While possibly I do not disagree with all of his remarks, I disassociate myself completely from the bulk of the remarks he made about the convention and the way in which it has been approached. I only see that as being beside the point at this stage.

My understanding is that there has been a considerable dampening of enthusiasm about the Australian Constitutional Convention among the Governments of Australia; and the ardour with which the ALP, when in Opposition around the country, approached the Constitutional Convention and in particular the enthusiasm of Senator Gareth Evans for reform of some kind, is now considerably dimmed as the ALP has faced in a number of places the reality of Government.

As a result of that change of view the delegation size has been reduced and questions are now raised as to whether there will be any future conventions. Achieving a constitutional change in Australia is of considerable difficulty because the two political sides in Australia, broadly speaking, do not agree on the fundamental terms of the Constitution. The issue seems to be always whether we should have this kind of Constitution at all, rather than whether we could make some improvements to it.

It might accurately be said that the objective of the Constitutional convention is too ambitious and that that is why over the years it has not proceeded in bringing about significant change. I prefer the word "change" to the use of the word "reform" which is a popular word with Australian Labor Party members and Ministers in various places. They always assume that what they want to change is a reform. To me the word "reform" means a change for the better. I have never thought that many of the Labor proposals represent a change for the better.

Some of the difficulties of a Constitutional Convention can be illustrated by the fact that in the wake of the 1975 conflict and the dismissal of the Whitlam Government, there was a broad measure of agreement around Australia that the way to ensure that such an event should not occur again

was to provide in the Commonwealth Constitution specifically, that if the Senate were to block supply there should be an immediate double dissolution or some other solution to a conflict of that nature.

However, that rule has never found favour with the Labor Party. Because of that, despite the fact that the Constitutional Convention gave it some measure of support, it has never proceeded. However, we support the motion. We have had some difficulty in filling our delegation as we would want because of the reduction in the numbers, but there it is. We have to live with that. I have written to the Minister and placed on the record our request in relation to substitute delegates if changes are to be made. I understand that the Government is doing its best in that respect, which we appreciate.

There has also been some discussion between Hon. Des Dans and Hon. Ian Medcalf about the way in which this should operate. I understand that there was an attempt to accommodate the interests of the minor party in the Parliament. That has been carried through as best it can be. We support the motion.

Question put and passed, and the Council acquitted accordingly.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Transport Amendment Bill.
2. Land Tax Assessment Amendment Bill.
3. Bunbury Railway Lands Bill.

Bills returned from Council without amendment.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 17 April.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [12.22 p.m.]: The Industrial Relations Amendment Bill is of quite considerable significance and I have some concerns about it. I am therefore sorry that a Bill of such significance was only yesterday brought into the House and is to be debated today. The Bill seeks to deal with the problem that was raised by Hon. Gordon Masters in another place when the amending legislation of the Government was considered in 1984. If the Minister refers to the *Hansard* record of Wednesday, 19 September 1984, at page 1391, he will see a statement from Hon. Gordon Masters, which reads as follows—

The Promotions Appeal Board proposes to permit appeals by all Government employees,

as I understand it. I am sure that the consequences of this will be massive additional costs to the public purse. It would be quite horrific if everyone were able to appeal. I understand that some senior Government officers are very worried indeed about this proposal. I ask the Minister for an indication of the extra staff that will be required. Surely to goodness, knowing what will happen, knowing the demands placed on the staff, he must have carried out an exercise to determine the number of additional staff needed under this new arrangement.

The problem which the Government has now identified in practice, was one previously foreseen and drawn to the Government's attention by the Opposition when the previous amending Bill was brought forward.

The purpose of the Bill is to place some restriction on the filling of positions from which appeals can be made by competing contenders for those positions. The way in which it is done raises some questions. Although the technicality of it is of some difficulty—I expect that it will be better debated by my colleague, Hon. Gordon Masters, in the other place—I want to place on record our concern that this Bill will allow the Government to remove from appealability, appointments to Public Service positions as it will be empowered to make non-Public Service appointments. That is the nub of our concern.

I put on the record our concern about this very point. The Government seeks power to proclaim that certain positions filled in the Public Service will not be appealable. That means that unsuccessful contenders for a position are not able to take an appeal to a promotions appeal board. That in itself is fair enough. The idea is fair enough; the problem is real. We acknowledge that and have pointed it out before. However, in practice it could mean that the Government can make an outside, politically inspired appointment to a Public Service position and, by using the exemption power, stop a public servant from appealing against that appointment. That is the essence of the concern which we have about this matter.

It is a very serious matter, considering the numerous politically motivated appointments that have been made to the Public Service and the way in which this Government has treated the Public Service. The question raised is one of why the Government does not limit the positions that need not be published or subject to appeal, to lower grades. All senior positions definitely should be advertised and appealable. This Bill attempts to create a situation in which the Government has complete discretion. It is clear that the Govern-

ment has some union problems over this. It is trying to overcome them by setting up a working party. That is its usual solution. When it has some problems with its masters, it sets up a working party and at the same time sets up legislation which gives it complete discretion. The Government is trying to do that in this legislation. It is trying to get a complete discretionary control without defining in the legislation what it wants to do.

The better approach to this would be to define that certain lower grades did not need to be publicised as available—that is, advertised—and would not need to be appealable. At the same time, senior grades clearly would need to be advertised and appealable. The solution to a real problem which the Government has come up with allows it to extend the politicisation of the Public Service by exempting important and senior positions from publicity, thereby opening them to all sorts of applications and exempting them from appealability. That ensures that political appointees can hold these spots without anyone being able to challenge them.

Therefore, we have very serious reservations about the Bill. I am making it clear that because of the very short time we have had to study this matter, I have had to seek some advice from my colleagues. We will not vote against the Bill; on the other hand, I make it clear that neither will we vote for it. If the Government carries the Bill it will be a Bill for which the Government takes full responsibility in light of the very dangerous issue we have raised. We think that the Government, the Civil Service Association, and anyone concerned with an impartial, apolitical Government administration should be concerned about that issue.

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Transport) [12.30 p.m.]: I cannot thank the Opposition for supporting this Bill because it does not intend to support it. However, I thank it for indicating that it will not oppose the Bill. I do not object to the way in which the Opposition has handled this matter; it is probably prudent. We did not give the Opposition the length of notice we would have liked in respect of a Bill of this nature but events seem to have overcome us to a fairly large degree. I do not want to say more than that because I do not have an intimate knowledge of this legislation or the problems brought about by the legislation.

Mr Hassell: You understand that we acknowledge there is a problem but we are worried about the solution you have chosen.

Mr GRILL: I appreciate that. It appears to me that superficially there has been a miscalculation as to the effects of last year's legislation. That has created a problem of some significance and as a matter of urgency the Government has brought forward this Bill in an endeavour, by a temporary expedient, to overcome the massive problems we are apparently now facing and to set up a mechanism which will provide a longer term solution. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that this legislation will probably, and in fact should, be better debated in another place.

Having said that, I would also like to acknowledge that it is clear that in passing this legislation the Opposition will to a large degree be taking the Government on trust. The Minister will be given a wide discretion and I give an assurance right now that the discretion by the Minister for Industrial Relations will be exercised in a most judicious and careful manner.

However, I take objection to the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition when he referred to numerous politically, motivated appointments. I do not know of one politically motivated appointment made by this Government. I do know of a number of appointments that have been made to Ministers' staff and I think that in every case those appointments are justified. The public and the Opposition need to acknowledge that Labor Governments operate very differently from Liberal Governments and we make no apology for that. We are different and a great deal more democratic in the way we operate. Our structure is much more democratic.

Mr Blaikie: You even tell the courts how they will act.

Mr GRILL: That is not correct and the member for Vasse does not grace this place by making facetious comments like that.

Ministers' officers—I take my own office as an example—are absolutely inundated with queries from the work force. Those queries and cases demand that they be handled by competent staff. By and large those staff members need to have sympathy with the work force and to understand the operations of the ALP, TLC, and the union movement. A very large proportion of the time taken up in my office by queries is devoted to queries from the union movement or the workers. It is necessary to have competent staff to handle the queries and problems that arise. It is totally incorrect and unworthy of the Leader of the Opposition to suggest that because of that the union movement is the master of this Government. It is completely incorrect and untrue.

Having said that, I indicate that I appreciate the approach taken by the Opposition to this legislation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

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

ACTS AMENDMENT (BETTING CONTROL) BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 April.

MR BRADSHAW (Murray-Wellington) [12.38 p.m.]: This is a small Bill which I support. The provisions in the Bill will allow bookmakers to operate on course from 12 noon on Anzac Day and will bring them into line with the Totalisator Agency Board which operates from 12 noon on that day at present. It has been established in the past that the traditional activities associated with Anzac Day are restricted to the morning and in the last few years sporting events have been held on Anzac Day afternoons.

I understand that the racing fraternity makes a contribution to the RSL which therefore benefits from race meetings held on Anzac Day.

I do not think allowing bookmakers to operate from 12 noon on Anzac Day is a major event; it is a sensible move and I support the Bill.

MR PEARCE (Armadale—Minister for Education) [12.39 p.m.]: I thank the member for Murray-Wellington for his support of the legislation we are introducing to amend the gambling laws of the State. I understand the Opposition does not caucus on these issues but its members are given a free vote. I hope that the leadership shown by the member for Murray-Wellington will be followed by his colleagues.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Pearce (Minister for Education), and passed.

RESERVES AND LAND REVESTMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 April.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [12.44 p.m.]: This is a Bill which is brought to the Parliament at least once every sitting where reserves and designations are changed. In this case a number of Class "A" reserves have had designations changed, and there are excisions and additions to be made.

An important principle has been established for many years which requires parliamentary approval to effect these changes. The very question of land tenure and what the land can be used for is a matter which concerns all Western Australians, and it is a matter that the Parliament arbitrates and decides upon.

In recent days we have seen the question of Aboriginal land rights and the debate that encouraged throughout Western Australia. What we are talking about now is the part of the land which is held in trust by the Crown on behalf of all people in Western Australia, so it is quite appropriate that the Parliament, representing the people of the State, should make this determination as to whether the requests made by the Government are agreed to or rejected.

Before going on to the items contained in this Bill, although the Minister has provided adequate notice and his department has provided adequate commentary on the reason for the changes and why they should be supported, I believe a further opportunity should be provided for members to be able to see the position on site, particularly those with responsibility such as shadow Ministers. They should have a better understanding of what is proposed.

The practice followed on this side of the House, with the responsibility I have of being spokesman on land matters, is that I have ascertained the various areas of land concerned. There is an area in the City of Stirling. I have gone to the members representing the City of Stirling, pointing out the area where the Government seeks to make changes and asking for their comments.

Satisfactory as that may be, I believe the Parliament ought to look for a better method and one where departmental officers can brief the members. After all is said and done, I have no doubt Government officers do a very good job in the exercise of their responsibilities but it is preferable for members of Parliament to be better informed. The comments I make are based on information I

have gained from my members. I do not want to cast any aspersions against them, but there should be a better method so that a wider range of people can be involved in this matter.

I hope the Minister will give some consideration to my comments, because whenever the opportunity presents itself I suggest Parliament should have a wider look at it.

Mr Carr: Was there a request for site inspections or discussions?

Mr BLAIKIE: No, that is not the case. I am the lead speaker on this and I am raising the matter in the Parliament now. It may not be a matter of actually having site inspections, there may well be an opportunity where the Government of the day says it will bring in this Reserves and Land Revestment Bill, the first and second readings have then been completed and officers of the department will be in Parliament House to explain the reasons for it.

We are not talking about political matters or anything like that; it is a matter of having members of Parliament informed. The meetings would bring in a wider ambit of other members of Parliament. All members of Parliament have a very positive responsibility to ensure that the Crown land which is held in trust for all Western Australians is responsibly and properly dealt with when decisions are made in the Parliament.

I do not cast any aspersions on members past or present, but as the State grows and develops, the manner in which members are advised in respect of Bills of this nature needs to be upgraded. I would venture to say that some Government members do not understand the contents of the Bill. That is not the fault of the members concerned; it is the fault of the system. I would prefer to sit on the other side of the House, but at times when I did so, reserves Bills were passed when I did not understand their contents and I was unaware as to whether my electorate was affected by them.

Members should be more widely informed on these issues. No doubt in his usual methodical manner, the Minister will refer my comments to his colleagues and consider what action to take.

Three areas of the Bill gave rise to concern in the community. The concern was not on a national basis, such as was evinced in respect of the Aboriginal land rights legislation just dealt with by the House, but rather was confined to the areas affected.

The first item to which I refer relates to Star Swamp, the general area of which is known as location 564. That may appear to be a very insignificant number, but Star Swamp is a significant area. For a number of years it caused great con-

cern to the people there who fought successive Governments, both Labor and Liberal, in an endeavour to stop the State Housing Commission using the land for a housing project. Those people believed it was important that Star Swamp be saved for the benefit of future generations. Of course, we see the result of that in the amendments before us today.

I will not speak at length on the proposal in relation to Star Swamp, but my colleague, the member for Karrinyup, who has long been viewed in the Karrinyup area as a great champion of the cause of Star Swamp, will no doubt be prompted to make some comments in relation to this matter, which is very close to him. I am aware of the strong representations he has made to successive Governments on this issue.

The second item of concern relates to Millstream Chichester National Park which is Class "A" Reserve No. 38333. That may not appear to be an area of great significance, but part of the Millstream area was used to provide a water supply to towns in the north. That matter was of great concern to the people in the area at the time. The decision in this respect was a difficult one for the Government to make. While Governments must have regard for individual rights, they must also have regard for the national interest, hence the decision was made in relation to the Millstream area.

It has been recommended that a further addition of land be made to the national park and the Opposition supports that proposal.

In the Shire of Wanneroo an area of 1,8737 hectares is designated as being set apart for the "purpose of protection and preservation of Orchestra Shell cave", and it is vested in the Shire of Wanneroo. It is proposed to excise a further area of 575 square metres. In his second reading speech, the Minister indicates that—

The Shire of Wanneroo has requested excision of a small area for stormwater drainage and the WA Museum has agreed to the excision provided the Aboriginal site is not affected.

The subsequent inspections have indicated that the excision will not affect the Aboriginal site.

That cave site has been declared a protected area under the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the Shire of Wanneroo wants to preserve the cave by seeking an excision for a drain in order that the site is protected adequately. The Opposition does not object to that.

The final proposal put forward by the Minister concerns a number of smaller areas relating to the reservation of land specified in the schedule under

section 20A of the Town Planning and Development Act. It is proposed that those reservations be cancelled.

The schedules involve a number of country towns and it is important that they be nominated for the record. They are the Town of Armadale, the City of Bayswater, the City of Gosnells, the Shire of Rockingham, the City of Stirling, and the Shire of Wanneroo in which three separate areas are involved.

I shall not elaborate on the detail of what is intended in respect of these small areas of land which it is proposed should revert to the Crown. Generally the areas are walkways and accessways and in discussions with the Minister he has indicated that the areas will be amalgamated and, on the one hand, the Crown will benefit from an improved town planning scheme and, on the other hand, the property owners will benefit from the resumptions which will take place.

No maps were included in the papers tabled in respect of the Bill. That emphasises the point I have made that officers of the department should be made available by the Minister handling the Bill so that they may come to the Parliament and explain to members who are interested in this matter the general nature of the total reserves and land revestment proposals.

If a series of maps were laid on the Table of the House in respect of the small areas of land referred to in the Bill, it would be extremely difficult to understand them. Indeed, very few members would look at them and, if they did so, they would have to try to find obscure areas. For example, we could be talking about a pedestrian accessway containing 386 square metres, coloured brown on the opposite title diagram No. 4470. Few people would know what the "opposite title diagram" was, let alone be aware of how to find the land referred to. If an officer of the department explained the position, members would understand it.

If that were the case, a far greater number of members would avail themselves of the opportunity to ensure that the land referred to in these vesting orders was being changed in an appropriate way for the benefit of future generations. We would then be secure in the knowledge that Parliament was making proper decisions which had been substantiated.

With those remarks, I indicate the Opposition's support for the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.15 p.m.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [2.15 p.m.]: This Bill includes certain matters relating to Star Swamp, a matter with which most members know

I am very much involved, because I was the first person ever to propose that the flora and fauna reserve be set up.

Mr Tonkin: You failed. You were in Government and you did nothing about it.

Mr CLARKO: I will come to that. This is one area where I do not need to get aggro or anything else, because I know the thing from top to bottom. I was the first person to propose that the reserve be established. In November 1975 I met with the Trigg, North Beach and Watermans Progress Association and urged it to write to the Minister of the day—that was the member for Narrogin, who was then the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Conservation and the Environment. The secretary of the association actually came to my home and I helped him to write the letter on behalf of the progress association. In a very slight way it aggrieves me when I read about the history of Star Swamp and find that it says it all began with a letter from the progress association, because in fact it started with my approaching the association to suggest it write that letter. Indeed, as I say, I actually helped to write the letter.

I began and continued to have private discussions with the Minister of the day and out of all that, finally, four hectares of land was made available, which covered the water area of Star Swamp. At the same time, I negotiated with the City of Stirling and it finally agreed to make available a piece of land it had there which was contiguous with that four hectares, and this created the Star Swamp reserve.

Over a long time I negotiated with various Ministers of the day and encouraged them to make more and more land available. In the end, if we include the land that belonged to the City of Stirling, where it had two sections which amounted to over seven hectares—one is the piece dealt with today, which is 3.5 hectares—those pieces, together with the section of land which belonged to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, which was shown on a map as regional open space—and that was 11.8 hectares—it meant in all that about 18 hectares was available. There was an odd mistake or two. The Minister at the time (June Craig) said that certain areas would be made available, but when I added them up the area was larger than that shown on the Lands and Surveys Department map. It was in excess of 40 hectares.

The penultimate decision of this Government to make available an area of about 47 hectares concerned a section of land in a sense only marginally greater than the area of land I had agreement for to be set aside.

Mr Pearce: When you were chairman of the Education endowment trust, why didn't you try to obtain the endowment trust land?

Mr CLARKO: Who said that I did not? Who can say that I did not talk to my colleagues in the Cabinet about that land? I can tell the Minister that I did try to do something about that land. If the former member for Murray (Mr Shalders) were here, he and the member for Gascoyne could tell the Minister how they sat with me in the office now occupied by the Minister and we discussed the matter for some time, and that on a separate occasion I visited one of those Ministers in his own office and worked on that matter. So, as I say, I did seek to get that approval. I did not get the approval for the whole 90 hectares I sought.

Mr Brian Burke: Why not?

Mr CLARKO: I got only half that 90 hectares, an area which the Premier's Government said three times in the first two years of his Government should be the only land to be made available.

The situation is quite clear. Before the election in 1983 the present Premier said that the ALP would save all of Star Swamp. Back in 1980 the then Leader of the Labor Party, the member for Victoria Park, the present Minister for the Environment, said that his party would save all the swamp if his party were elected to Government. His party was not elected.

The Premier said, "We will save all of it". The Premier said that anyone who suggested setting aside only part of this area of land failed to understand the ecosystem. Those words appear in the *Stirling Times* of February 1983. He said the Government would save the whole lot. The situation is simply this: In about November 1983 the Government announced it would set aside only 47 hectares of land in Star Swamp—

Mr Taylor: Keep going.

Mr CLARKO: I will keep going. I will go through the whole lot. He said 47 hectares would be made available and on two more occasions, including the day the decision was made on 3 December 1984, the Government announced that it would set aside only roughly half the land. It is interesting to note that the Premier has made a couple of his little witticisms. The Cabinet meeting was held on 2 December and in *The West Australian* of 3 December the Premier said the following—

We repeat our decision to only make available 47 hectares at Star Swamp. There is no environmental reason to set aside the whole area.

That was done on three occasions. The Government made a total and unequivocal commitment to set aside all the land. The Premier said in *The West Australian* of 3 December, "There is no environmental reason to set the whole area aside". Would he explain why he said that?

Mr Brian Burke: Yes, the community feeling is the reason. You don't understand that, you see.

Mr CLARKO: I understand all about that. I started the project. I was responsible for its creation. I was the first person to envisage this project. I had the first sections of land set aside, and I continue to support it. People have said to me in the past that not a single piece of land had actually been set aside. The Government has talked about this matter but nothing has yet been set aside, and that is the position we face today.

I am extremely disappointed with this measure in the reserves Bill which relates to Star Swamp. Anyone who knows the situation knows that all the Government is setting aside is 3.5 hectares of land within a 90 hectare area. By the way, that 3.5 hectares is City of Stirling land. The 3.5 hectares is all we are talking about. That is what is in this Bill that relates to this matter. Here is the Minister's copy of the map.

Mr Brian Burke: You are impossible to get through to.

Mr CLARKO: The Premier is absolutely asinine in the extreme. He is behaving like an arrant fool. The Government has to'ed and fro'ed on this issue. I have already quoted the Premier's words. He is getting nasty because he made these statements before the election. He said that all the land would be set aside and on three occasions the Cabinet set aside half the land. The problem is that he does not understand the environmental ecosystem. That is the Premier's own word. I do not know from where he got the word "ecosystem". Somebody must have read it out to him. In his last statement he said "There is no environmental reason for setting aside the whole area, so therefore we are setting aside only 47 hectares".

I attended a meeting with the Minister for the Environment on 8 February this year. I am a member of the Star Swamp advisory committee. Hon. Graham Edwards is also a member of that committee, representing the Government. I am pleased to be on that committee and I am pleased that Hon. Graham Edwards is also on the committee because he has shown a strong interest in this matter. I am sure he has played a very important part in the final volte-face or turnaround by this Government. I quoted the Premier on that matter because this Government, having said it

would make all the land available, on three occasions made only half of it available. The Government has been attacking us for the previous six or seven years.

Mr Burkett: Finally the 90 hectares which you and I wanted was granted.

Mr CLARKO: I know. I know the member for Scarborough was involved through the City of Stirling. The City of Stirling was 100 per cent supportive of this project from day one, and I was very appreciative of that support. Hon. Graham Edwards was also on the council, and I applaud his role also.

This legislation sets aside only 3.5 hectares out of 90 hectares. At the meeting that I attended on 8 February a paper was presented by a Lands and Surveys Department representative. He set down the nine steps that needed to be taken for all of this land to be set aside. I am pleased the decision has been made, but it is only one—

Mr Brian Burke: You don't seem very pleased.

Mr CLARKO: The Premier is a bit overtired and overstressed. He is not his normal easygoing self. He is a bit irritable and cranky today. Nine pieces of land are to be accumulated. This Bill acquires only one piece of land—3.5 hectares out of 90 hectares.

A Press release was circulated recently which gave the public the idea that this step was the one that created Star Swamp.

Mr Burkett: On a point of clarification, I was told the reason more land is not available is that roads have to be closed. The City of Stirling is advertising for those roads to be closed. I spoke to Mr Richardson about that matter last week, so there is no doubt that once those roads are closed—there is a right of way for private ownership to be closed—only then can the whole 90 hectares be totally amalgamated and vested.

Mr CLARKO: That is not the whole picture. The Minister for Education and his friends can giggle away like a couple of fools. The Minister for Education is the only bloke in the world in the situation that when his bottom lip is sticking out, his top lip is sticking out further. He will trip over those lips some time. Carry on, the bionic lip!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CLARKO: Listen to his outbursts and tripe. I do not know whether he would even consider Star Swamp—

Mr Brian Burke: He has feelings too.

Mr CLARKO: That is right. He is suffering from overwork too. He has become a bit cranky as well. I point out to the member for Scarborough that nine steps need to be taken. The member for

Scarborough has carefully pointed out the situation.

Mr Read interjected.

Mr CLARKO: The member does not know anything about this subject. If he were further back in the House he would be in Zanthus. Nine steps need to be taken, but only one has been taken so far. The member for Scarborough has indicated—and I understand it is true—that some problems are being experienced in regard to some land on former road reserves. Of the remaining 87 hectares of land—the member for Scarborough can correct me if I am wrong—this would not take up one hectare. Another eight steps have to be taken. As yet they have not been taken.

I was at the meeting which the Minister for the Environment attended. He gave us a very good hearing. We hoped, after that meeting, that this matter would come before us in its entirety. We expected the lease and the road reserves to be included. The Minister for Education is a great one to talk about the education endowment trust land. Have steps been taken for that 29 hectares to be considered by us? I say they have not, because if something had been done, then presumably they would have been here for consideration as well. There is Crown land to be considered also. Those areas are all part of the nine steps of which only one step has been taken.

Mr Pearce: It is all under way.

Mr CLARKO: That is all nonsense. After the Government promised that the whole 90 hectares would be set aside, and it agreed only to 47 hectares being set aside, I approached my party to set up a Star Swamp advisory committee. Under my chairmanship of that committee, we invited the Leader of the Opposition to visit Star Swamp—he had visited it before—and we were able to show him that it was necessary for us to agree to set aside the whole area. We agreed to set aside all that land.

If the Government is defeated next March, as it probably will be—

Mr Brian Burke: Give us a bit of support then.

Mr CLARKO: That was the length of time the Labor Party was in last time—three years. I am asking the Government to make every effort to make sure that during the next session, the Government meets its commitment which it has not yet met.

Mr Brian Burke: Give us a bit of support.

Mr CLARKO: All I can say to the Premier is that it is nice to see him in here with a smile on his face because it was not noticeable earlier today. I think the Premier is disappointed because he made

public statements which misled everybody and now he is trying to save himself. It is disappointing to find that, in the Bill, only 3.5 hectares has been set aside. That is only a token area. Really, if the 3.5 hectares section was not included, our committee would be no worse off. It would make no difference to those who are trying to set up the Star Swamp reserve. If the Minister for Education is correct when he is on the verge of setting aside 29 hectares of this education endowment trust land, then all the areas could come in together. I hope that we do not go through this year without the nine steps being completed.

Another piece of hypocrisy has been performed by the Federal Labor member for Stirling, Mr Ron Edwards. He worked to get Mr Cohen out there several times to get his photo in the *Stirling Times*. He gave the miserable sum of \$3 000 and tried to gain a lot of credit for the Federal Labor Government. The Federal Government and Mr Ron Edwards should have stayed out of this matter altogether. He has done nothing about it. He is like a couple of my opponents at the last two elections. They all suddenly got an instant love for Star Swamp when they were endorsed by the Labor Party.

Mr Pearce: When the Federal Labor Party was in Opposition, you could not get any Liberal members interested in it, could you?

Mr CLARKO: That is nonsense.

Mr Pearce: That area involved 11 hectares.

Mr CLARKO: It is not 11 hectares, that is where the Minister is wrong. That figure was mentioned the other day. Somebody said that we only made available 18 hectares or some other such nonsense. The Government was claiming an area of 47 hectares. In that area, he should realise, there is an area of regional open space totalling 11.8 hectares. I spoke to Neil Hawkins, the then chairman of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, many years ago, and the authority agreed to allow that area to become part of the flora and fauna reserve.

The Government also claimed the two pieces belonging to the City of Stirling to be part of the 47 hectares. However, when somebody talks about what the Liberals had set aside, the Minister takes that area out. He should compare like with like. Can the Minister explain to me why the Premier said, on 3 December, "We are only making 47 hectares available because there is no environmental reason for there being any more than that".

Mr Pearce: I will tell the member why. I have been to Star Swamp. I flew over it in a helicopter with the then Minister for Planning.

Mr CLARKO: The Minister would not have seen it very closely. It would be no good going up today because, unfortunately, half of it has been burnt out.

Mr Pearce: Yes, and I understand the police are searching for a large tubby gentleman! Cabinet's view originally was that the ecosystem that surrounds Star Swamp, in quite the way the Premier said, was encompassed within that 47 hectare area. Subsequently, there was a proposition through "Greening Australia", with Alcoa money, to save the whole area as a park. The purpose was not just to save the swamp but to save the whole area, reafforest it and raise it to a higher level than it is currently at. It is a fairly degraded area near Marmion Avenue. We accepted the second proposition and made it a mini Kings Park in the northern suburbs. That is the answer.

Mr CLARKO: Are you saying that the "Greening Australia" proposition was then the reason for the Government making available another 43 hectares of public land worth many millions of dollars? Did it do this because "Greening Australia" said that it would come to the party and provide the area with a few trees? The involvement by "Greening Australia" is tremendously welcome. But if the Minister is trying to say that the reason for giving 43 hectares of public land over to a reserve is because "Greening Australia" made its offer, I cannot accept that argument.

I come back to the point raised by the Premier earlier today when he asked why the Liberal Party vacillated and why I was not able to persuade the Liberal Party to give up the balance of the land. The reason was that every time the then Premier and then Ministers, other than the member for Narrogin, approached the Government advisers such as the scientists of the Environmental Planning Authority, they were told certain things. In fact, I was told that if the Government had the money available to pay the State Housing Commission and the education endowment trust for this land, the environmental scientists in the State Government would rather spend that money somewhere else. A particular scientist said that they had other areas that rated more highly on their list than the Star Swamp area.

Mr Wilson: It was still a political decision.

Mr CLARKO: I do not know what the Minister means by that. Every time I approached the Liberal Government and asked it about the area I was told that the Government scientists, in contradiction with scientists who were associated with the Star Swamp area, were saying one thing and the latter another. I took a group of them to meet with

Ray O'Connor just before the 1980 elections, in January or February 1980, when he was Minister for Conservation and the Environment. That was when it was suggested that Professor Maine chair a committee to try to solve the differing opinions between the two sets of scientists. That was why I could not persuade the Liberal Government to give up the land, because the previous Government's scientists were saying that all of that land should not be set aside.

When this Government said three times that it would only give up about the same area of land, 47 hectares, I considered that, once again, these scientists were giving that advice to the Government. That was the reason I thought the Government had broken its promise which it had made two years ago. I felt that the Government scientists were saying the Star Swamp area did not need to be extended to 90 hectares.

I put it to the Minister that the reason the Government changed its mind was because certain local Labor members, some of whom are listening to me now, used their influence to persuade it to change. I commend those people; they influenced Cabinet to move away from the situation which had applied for nearly two years. Cabinet had, three times, made a decision which really was the same decision made by my Government in other years. The difference was that this Minister's Government had repeatedly promised to set the whole area aside and three times did otherwise. My party has never made a promise to set aside even one grain of sand in Star Swamp. I got every grain of sand that had been promised until that date.

I welcome everything the Government does in regard to setting up the Star Swamp reserve. I was at the recent meeting where the Premier made his statements about Star Swamp. A bush band was present and it was a very interesting country type of meeting. The people present were very interested in the area. The Premier was there with his great battery of parliamentary colleagues beside him.

At that meeting no particular reference was made to my having been the architect of Star Swamp. I did not expect that it would be. A little park at Trigg was named the Clarko Reserve. I had nothing to do with its being called that, but the Council of the City of Stirling, because I had organised that park, decided to call it after me. Whatever people may say about Star Swamp, it is Clarko's swamp in many ways because I helped to organise it all. This land has still not been set aside by the Government.

Mr Barnett: Swampy Clarko, that's what they should call you!

Mr CLARKO: Some members may find this issue funny, but I do not. I helped to organise Star Swamp.

Mr Brian Burke: You had to wait until we were elected to achieve it.

Mr CLARKO: As an individual member of Parliament, I have certainly done my bit with regard to Star Swamp. I think the Premier would agree with me. I did not do it for any partisan reason; it was something I, as a local member, did for my electorate.

Mr Brian Burke: No-one said you did.

Mr CLARKO: I do not expect the Premier to protest about it. I commend the Government for getting Star Swamp established. I was not successful in getting enough of the land set aside, just as this Government has not yet been. Only 3.5 hectares have been set aside.

Mr Davies: The important thing is that you had agreed to do it, but I could not find any evidence on the file that, having agreed to it, you then followed it up. That is what I was a bit annoyed about. It could have been a *fait accompli* on the small amount, had you got off your bottom, to be a little crude, and done something about it.

Mr CLARKO: I was well and truly off my bottom, I assure the Minister. When I used to go near members of the Court Cabinet, they used to say, "Oh no, not Star Swamp again". It was like German shepherds were for me a few years earlier. I would occasionally like to have had the German shepherds there when the Court Cabinet was sitting!

This is a very serious matter. When I retire from Parliament, whenever that might be, voluntarily or involuntarily, I will still have an association with that swamp. Others will also. I would not play down the tremendous part that has been played by the local committee.

Mr Tonkin: How about naming a few; give them credit.

Mr CLARKO: I have done so repeatedly elsewhere. Some of those involved are strong supporters of the Labor Party. Don Edwards, the chairman of that committee, has done an outstanding amount of work. When I first put up the proposal he was the only other person who strongly supported me on the night of the meeting. He has had a long association with the area, having lived opposite the reserve most of his life.

Mr Tonkin: He is a conservationist.

Mr CLARKO: Yes. I gather he drove members of the Government a bit mad when arguing

against the fact that the Government had allotted only half the area instead of the lot. Ann Bloeman has done a tremendous amount with regard to the Star Swamp committee. There are others. I do not want to name too many of them, but I will name a couple of them. Pat Hancock and Dr Mathias are two such members of the committee. I may have missed a couple. Members of that committee have played a very vital part. They were organised and used the media to press their points. In particular, they used scientists. The scientific report that they put together played a vital part in this issue.

If we consider the things that happen in politics in the metropolitan area on a wider basis we can see that the Star Swamp issue would be of interest to somebody interested in political groups that achieve objectives.

The issue has been around for some time. The member for Scarborough knows how much time he has put into this particular matter. He should have been one of those on the stage sitting next to the Premier on that particular recent Sunday.

Mr Davies: When they took you out there to show it to you?

Mr CLARKO: No-one ever needed to take me to it.

Mr Davies: Did you go over the whole perimeter of it?

Mr CLARKO: I have been over that area many times.

Mr Davies: When you go out there they say it should all be swamp. What they do not tell you is that there is another heap of land over the hill that you do not think to have a look at.

Mr CLARKO: They always take people to the best part, naturally enough. I think that the Minister went there. I wonder whether he would have liked to walk over the whole 93 hectares. I hope he did not, because he would be dead if he had.

Mr Davies: No, but when I eventually found just what was involved, I drove up both ends on a number of occasions to have a look at it to try to assess it. When we stood at the swamp and talked about it, I said it was reasonable—

Mr CLARKO: I am running out of time. This particular project is now to be developed. I think the Premier is representing the Minister for Lands and Surveys.

Mr Tonkin: No, it is the Minister for Local Government.

Mr CLARKO: I am sorry. I ask the Minister for Local Government to use every device he can to make sure that, when we come to the next reserves Bill in this House, a proposal for the remaining 90 hectares is in front of us because

that is essential. The City of Stirling has been and is keen to do what it can, but the land is not mainly in its ownership.

Mr Tonkin: We will take that up with the Minister for Lands and Surveys.

Mr CLARKO: Right. I was very pleased with the meeting I had with the Minister for the Environment and the paper prepared by an old rugby mate of mine which sets out the nine parts. We are implementing part one. I strongly urge the Government to encourage these people to implement the other parts. The Leader of the House would probably have experienced the situation—

Mr Burkett: Before your time runs out you should make a special mention of Ann Bloeman.

Mr CLARKO: I mentioned her a moment ago. It is vital that in the Autumn session these steps are taken. I will table that part of the document, if I may, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I will allow that.

The document was tabled for the information of members.

MR RUSHTON (Dale) [2.46 p.m.]: I put just one question to the Minister handling the Bill. He will perhaps not be fully aware of the circumstances, but approaches have been made to the Premier and others and commitments have been made for a transfer of land for an orchardist at Dwellingup from the Forests Department to the Public Works Department. It has been an ongoing commitment. I would like the Minister for Local Government to alert the Minister for Lands and Surveys when he is back in his place, to take on the matter and see that it is in the next reserves Bill. It is vital to the local orchardist. The Minister for Lands and Surveys will know what it is about, but I ask the Minister representing him to jog his memory. I would like the matter to be covered in the next reserves Bill.

The other matter I refer to is the transfer of land at Karragullen. There was a hiatus over gravel reserves and the like with the change of Government. I think this Government went on to what we proposed to do; namely, found gravel reserves away from Karragullen. The actual reserve that had been committed to people then reverted to its old purpose, forest, in word only. I believe it was in the province of the Forests Department before and should revert to it. I would like the Minister also to look at the matter and put in place the administration necessary to restore the former position.

MR CARR (Geraldton—Minister for Local Government) [2.48 p.m.]: I reply briefly on behalf of the Minister for Lands and Surveys, for whose

absence I apologise to the House. I have noted the comments that have been made by various speakers and will convey them to the Minister for his consideration. The member for Vasse called for a better system of informing members of the details of the reserves Bill and he mentioned such possibilities as site inspections and departmental briefings. These both seem to be perfectly reasonable suggestions. I will be happy to convey those comments to the Minister. I make the point, however, that when I asked the member for Vasse if he had actually requested departmental briefings, he indicated that he had not. Quite possibly, if there had been requests for particular information it could have been made readily available.

Mr Blaikie: I acknowledge that my suggestion was that the officers come to the Parliament at a suggested time and members avail themselves of that opportunity.

Mr CARR: I heard the suggestion. That will be conveyed to the Minister for Lands and Surveys. The member for Vasse also queried the lack of maps relating to the accessway closures.

I would stress in reply that these matters normally do not come to Parliament; they are normally dealt with by administrative action. It is only because of a failing found in the wording of section 297 of the Local Government Act that they have come to Parliament in this way. Each relates to small amounts of land in local circumstances. They are not the sort of thing which would be considered by Parliament as a whole.

The member for Karrinyup spoke at some length about Star Swamp. I could have summarised the position much more briefly and I would have done so by saying that for nine years the previous Government did nothing. We have been in Government for two years and we have made a decision which will see the whole swamp saved.

Mr Clarko: It is false to say we did nothing.

Mr CARR: The Opposition when in Government did very little. It certainly did not save the whole thing. I am not going to prolong the debate by discussing the performance of the previous Government. It did not preserve Star Swamp.

Mr Clarko: You have not, either.

Mr CARR: The point is being made by the member for Karrinyup that this Bill relates to only one portion of Star Swamp. That matter was dealt with by an interjection by the member for Scarborough that the land is made up of several parcels with different types of background; they cannot all be put in place immediately because of various procedures of one sort or another. I under-

stand the City of Stirling is currently involved in work relating to some of that land. The whole area is to be preserved. That decision has been made and steps are being taken to enable that to occur. Some steps can occur more quickly than others, but the result will be the same.

I will make one point which I think is important about the contribution of the member for Karrinyup, and that is that his comments contrast the different approaches adopted by different members of Parliament to matters in their electorates. If I were the person who originally thought of the idea, as the member claims to be, and I wanted something to happen in my electorate; if I had been trying for 11 years and I had been knocked back all the time, if I had no response from the Government, and then a new Government responded like this, my response would be to say, "Thank you".

Several members interjected.

Mr CARR: The member has looked around and he has finally managed to find a few small ways of whingeing about the way in which the decision was made instead of being open about it and saying, "Well done". The member says he was the one who originated this idea. If he says that, I am in no position to argue with him, but it is extraordinarily surprising that something like this could have been going on for only 11 years. I am surprised to hear people have not suggested the preservation of this area over the last 50 years or so.

Mr Clarko: They have not.

Mr CARR: I accept what the member says. It is a pity we have had this petty dispute this afternoon. Most of us have been in politics long enough to know that we get involved in issues where we seek to achieve things but we do not get the credit for it. Most people will accept that. It is a pity the member for Karrinyup has gone in for this self-aggrandisement.

The member for Dale referred to a few cases of land exchanges he would like to see which are not mentioned in the Bill. I have no knowledge of these but I will see that his remarks are drawn to the attention of the Minister for Lands and Surveys.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Carr (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), and transmitted to the Council.

[Questions taken.]

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [3.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.46 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

Investments

3005. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Technology:

- (1) As at 31 March, what funds had been invested by the Technology Development Trust Fund in the form of loans or equity in technology projects?
- (2) Would he itemise these projects?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) \$250 000 has been invested in Formulab Technology Australia Pty Ltd from the Technology Development Trust Fund. It should be noted that the Fund was formally launched on 29 March 1985, although a number of applications were being processed prior to that date. At the present time there are 5 applications in hand, being evaluated as follows:

R. & D. Loan Scheme—3
Product refinement loan—2
Equity Funding Scheme—0

Details of the applications are considered to be a matter of confidence between the Board of the Authority and each applicant.

- (2) Details as in (1) above.

BUILDING INDUSTRY: CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

Members

3027. Mr MacKINNON, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Who are the members of the Western Australian Construction Industry Steering Committee?
- (2) Who are the members of the Procurement Working Committee which I understand reports to this Construction Industry Committee?
- (3) What is the purpose of each of those committees?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Present membership of the Western Australian Construction Industry Group Steering Committee is as follows:

Peter Blockley—
Western Australian Construction Industry Group—Chairman

W. S. Shelton—
Water Authority of Western Australia

Dr K. Machael—
M.R.D.

A. W. Smith—
B.M.A.

Dr M. Colley—
S.E.C.

D. West—
D.R.D.

J. Keenan—
D.I.D.

A further representative of the Western Australian Construction Industry Group is to be appointed by the Chairman.

- (2) Present membership of the Western Australian Construction Industry Group Procurement Working Committee is as follows:

J. Snooks—
W.A.C.I.G. Member

H. McLeod—
W.A.C.I.G. Member

J. Silbert—
W.A.C.I.G. Member

A. W. Smith—
B.M.A.

Dr M. Colley—
S.E.C.

W. S. Shelton—
W.A.W.A.

J. Sharp-Collett—
T.L.C. Representative

A. Mathewson—
D.I.D.

A representative of the Confederation of Western Australian Industry is yet to be appointed. No Chairman has at this time been appointed.

- (3) (a) The Western Australian Construction Industry Group Steering Committee was formed to enable the non-housing construction sector of the building industry to raise issues of concern to that sector with Government on a coordinated basis.

The Steering Committee will study issues brought to it, and, when necessary, bring those issues to the

attention of relevant Government Ministers at an appropriate forum.

- (b) The Western Australian Construction Industry Group Procurement Working Committee will provide advice to the Department of Industrial Development and the Western Australian Construction Industry Group Steering Committee. The Committee will consider issues referred to it by the Steering Committee, the Minister for Industrial Development and the Department, and examine means of improving procurement procedures and local industry participation in major development projects. These will include both the private and public sectors, but not resource development projects.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER: LAND ACQUISITION

Mr Ian Offer

3091. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has he decided to continue negotiations to purchase Mr Ian Offer's property in Wellesley Road, Benger adjacent to the proposed aluminium smelter site?
- (2) If not, when will he make his decision?
- (3) Does he intend to purchase the property or not?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) There have been no formal negotiations by the Government in relation to the purchase of Mr Offer's property.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Mr Offer's property is outside the area of interest.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: FREMANTLE

Port Authority: Jurisdiction

3105. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

Will he please table a plan of the geographic area over which the Fremantle Port Authority has jurisdiction?

Mr GRILL replied:

A map of the area the member has referred to is contained on the inside of the cover of the 1983-84 Annual Report of

the Fremantle Port Authority. This document has already been tabled in the House.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: FREMANTLE

Container Cargo: Handling Cost

3109. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With regard to the costs associated with handling containerised cargo within the Port of Fremantle, what is the direct cost of handling a container at the special loading facility?
- (2) Are additional costs involved that also apply to other vessels which are not necessarily loading containers?
- (3) Is the container handling charge at Fremantle competitive with similar charges at other Australian ports?
- (4) Is it correct that the container handling charge within the Port of Fremantle is some three (3) times higher than a similar handling cost in United States ports?
- (5) If "No" to (4), what are the comparative costs?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The cost of handling a container at a special loading facility provided by the Fremantle Port Authority is \$135.00 per TEU for imported containers and \$113.00 per TEU for exported containers. More specialised container handling facilities are operated by Stateships and Fremantle Terminals Ltd. While I can say that charges for the use of these facilities are generally higher than those quoted above, I am not at liberty to disclose them. It is commercial information which has been supplied to the Transport Portfolio on a confidential basis.
- (2) The only additional cost involved that may also apply to other vessels which are not necessarily loading containers is an hourly allowance paid to waterside labour for handling containers. If a container is handled during the loading of break bulk cargo, the gang handling it is entitled to that hourly allowance for the entire shift.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) I believe that, for most ports in the USA, the costs of moving containers from ship to wharf (or vice versa) are comparable

with costs for the same service at Australian ports.

- (5) Information available to the Transport Portfolio on these costs is commercially confidential information. I am not at liberty to disclose it. However, I will contact the member by letter in regard to further discussion.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: LOCAL PREFERENCE

Industries Affected

3117. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

Adverting to his answer to a question without notice on Wednesday, 3 April 1985, would he please say how he is going to ascertain which of the Western Australian manufacturing and service industries will be adversely affected by the adoption of a new Government policy of not giving preference to Western Australian goods and services?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The Government will continue to consult extensively with industry and union representatives to ensure that adequate assistance will be available for the few WA companies that may be adversely affected by the removal of preferences.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: LOCAL PREFERENCE

Country Contracts

3118. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Will the Government's policy to be adopted of not giving preference to Western Australian goods and services also extend to the requirement to give preference to local goods and services within Western Australia?
- (2) Accordingly, will tender requirements for country jobs to use locally manufactured material such as bricks, etc. and local subcontractors be scrapped?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) The question of the continuation of preferences to regionally based industry is currently being considered through Western Australia's participation on the State Preference and Industry

Restructuring Advisory Committee (SPIRAC).

- (2) Answered by (1).

TECHNOLOGY: COMPUTERS

Government Instrumentalities: Tender

3134. Mr CLARKO, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Has the State Tender Board called a tender for the supply of computing and information technology for the Education Department, Health Department of Western Australia and the Police Department for a three year period?
- (2) If "Yes", would the Health Department's initial and conversion costs be an estimated \$20 million?
- (3) Is it a viable alternative to upgrade the existing machines in the Health Department at an estimated cost of \$1 million?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The indicative costs associated with the migration of existing computing applications to an IBM/compatible environment over the next three years are \$6 million. The possible hardware costs associated with meeting the backlog of computing systems processing and future demands of information systems processing projected for the next three years could be in the vicinity of \$14 million. As the current hardware tendering process has not concluded firm figures are not available.
- (3) There is at the present a large backlog of data processing needs throughout the Hospital systems. This load, together with essential expansion, can not be met by expansion of computing hardware at the suggested \$1 million. To take advantage of any new technology from the suppliers of existing hardware to the Health Department would involve a migration programme of similar magnitude to that anticipated with the current tender.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY: LEASES

Australian Land and Cattle Co. Ltd.: Future

3135. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) Has any decision been made regarding the future of pastoral leases held by Australian Land and Cattle Company?
- (2) If "Yes", to whom are the leases to be transferred?
- (3) Will any compensation be payable to Australian Land and Cattle Company?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), how much is to be paid?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) Not applicable.

MERSTON CONSTRUCTIONS PTY. LTD.

Debts: R & I Bank

3149. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it fact that the company, Merston Constructions, referred to in question 2216 of 20 February, is now being pursued for debts by the Rural and Industries Bank?
- (2) If so, in the advice given to him as indicated in part (4) of question 2216, did the bank express any concern about the credit worthiness of Merston Constructions?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) and (2) I am informed that the Rural and Industries Bank is not Merston Constructions, banker and therefore would not have been asked to comment on the credit worthiness of that company. Obviously any financial details obtained from bankers, etc. by the Building Management Authority in relation to contractors is on a strictly confidential basis.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Seaman Inquiry: South-west Region

3166. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) What funds were provided for use in the south-west region of Western Australia for the preparation of submissions to the Seaman Aboriginal land inquiry?
- (2) How many persons were employed in the south-west region in the preparation of any submission?

- (3) From whom were any applications for such funding received?
- (4) What investigation was undertaken to assess the need and desirability of providing any such funding?
- (5) What auditing and subsequent examination of the use of any such funds has been undertaken, and with what result?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) to (5) As the information sought by the member will take time to compile, I shall write when details are available.

TRANSPORT: SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Options

3167. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Government concerned at the availability of transport options between Western Australia and South East Asia?
- (2) If so, what action has the Government taken, or is it intending to take, to improve the availability of transport options for Western Australian exports to South East Asia?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government has taken a number of positive initiatives in relation to the transport of both freight and passengers between Western Australia and South East Asia. Some of these are listed below.

Through me, as Minister for Transport, we have developed a close relationship with the senior executives of East Asiatic Corporation (EAC) in Copenhagen and Los Angeles. EAC provides the most important liner shipping link between Fremantle and South East Asia.

As a result of that relationship, we have been able to influence EAC Lines in its decision to increase both the capacity and frequency of the shipping services it offers. News of this improved service has received Press coverage over the last few days.

At my request, EAC Lines is researching a number of options for improving the transport links between Fremantle and a variety of South East Asian and Indian Ocean destinations.

We have given encouragement and support to air charter operators who might wish to provide air freight services between Western Australia and South East Asian destinations such as Brunei. We will continue to provide that support.

A Government-industry committee has been formed to present a joint case to the Federal Government for relaxation of regulatory constraints on international air freight services. A submission will be presented within the next month.

We have established a working liaison with international airlines, such as Korean Air, with the intention of facilitating improved freight and passenger services between Perth and South East Asia. Appropriate representations to the Federal Minister for Aviation have been made.

The Government has set up the Exim Corporation for the specific purpose of facilitating improvements in Western Australia's export trades, particularly with our near neighbours in South East Asia. Exim is vitally interested in both air and sea freight transport services.

The Government has mounted a campaign to secure greater freedom of entry for international airlines which see commercial advantages in increasing the capacity of international air services to and from Perth. This campaign will involve leading Western Australian businessmen, as well as the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Tourism Commission, the Co-ordinator General of Transport and the Exim Corporation.

The Co-ordinator General of Transport is objectively studying whether there may be commercial merit in extending Stateships' North West and Darwin service to a range of carefully selected South East Asian ports. The study is being carried out in close consultation with both Stateships and the Exim Corporation.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: BLAST FURNACE

Kwinana: Reopening

3168. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In negotiating the reopening of the BHP Kwinana Blast Furnace, has consider-

ation been given to the rail freight cost between Koolyanobbing and Kwinana?

- (2) As these freight rates are the subject of a formula within the Agreement Act, is it intended that the provisions of the Agreement Act will apply?
- (3) If "No" to (2), is the Government negotiating a special rail freight rate for the project which will assist in determining whether the project reopens?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The provisions of the freight rate clause of the Agreement Act are being used as the basis for negotiation with consideration being given to special operating arrangements which may apply if the project re-opens.

CHEMICALS: CHLOR-ALKALI PLANT

Projects: Participants

3170. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the announced chlor-alkali plant to be established at Kwinana, who are the participants in the project?
- (2) What is the energy feed stock for the plant?
- (3) What is the estimated annual production of—
 - (a) caustic soda;
 - (b) chlorine;
 - (c) any by-products?
- (4) When is it intended that construction will commence?
- (5) What Western Australian raw materials will be used in the manufacturing process?
- (6) What support, financial or other, is being given by the Government to assist with the establishment of this industry?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) CSBP and Farmers Ltd.
- (2) Electrical Power—12.5M Kilowatt-hours per annum. Gas usage is estimated at 13 000 GJ/annum.
- (3) Estimated annual production levels:—
 - Caustic Soda 4 900 tonnes
 - Chlorine 4 500 tonnes
 - Hydrogen 1.4 million cubic metres.

The plant is designed so that capacity can be increased to meet growth in the local market.

- (4) Mid 1985.
- (5) 9 000 tonnes salt per annum.
- (6) A commercial contract will be signed for the supply of chlorine to the Water Authority of Western Australia (WAWA).

MINERALS: DIAMONDS

Production

3171. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

What was the diamond production (in carats) from the Argyle Diamond Project in the 1983-84 financial year?

Mr PARKER replied:

Diamond production from the Argyle diamond project in the 1983-84 financial year, reported to the Department of Mines, totalled 6 951 123 carats.

ALUMINA REFINERY (MITCHELL PLATEAU) AGREEMENT ACT

Amendment

3173. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the Agreement Act governing the development of the Mitchell Plateau bauxite deposits, has the Government agreed to amend the Agreement?
- (2) What extension has been granted to the venturers where there are obligations concerned?
- (3) For what reason has any further time extension been granted?
- (4) What terms and further obligations have been negotiated in exchange for any time extension?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) No decision has yet been made by Government.
- (2) An extension has been granted to 30 June 1985.
- (3) To enable Government to assess project reports submitted by the Joint Venturers pursuant to the Agreement and to give consideration to the future of the Agreement beyond 30 June 1985.
- (4) Not applicable at this stage.

UNIONS: AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF SHIPPING

Comments: Industrial Blackmail

3174. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the comments of the Australian Chamber of Shipping regarding "industrial blackmail" and "job creation" on the Australian waterfront?
- (2) If so, have stand-over tactics been employed by some militant unions to obtain work for their members?
- (3) If not, what action has he taken to correct the statement of the chamber?
- (4) Is he aware of the concern of the shipping industry in Western Australia at the incidence of demands in the Port of Fremantle such as those referred to by the Chamber of Shipping?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (4) No recent incidences of "stand-over tactics" on the waterfront have been brought to my attention. If the member knows of any specific union action, on the waterfront, which might fit into this category, it would be appreciated if he would bring it to the attention of either the Minister for Industrial Relations or myself.

TRANSPORT: WESTRAIL

Revenue: Estimate

3175. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Having regard to the recent grain harvest, and consequent freight income to Westrail, what is now the estimated Westrail revenue for the current fiscal year?
- (2) By how much does this vary from the original income estimate?
- (3) Have any other income estimates changed apart from grain revenue?
- (4) If so, which ones?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Grain \$80m.
Total \$255m.
- (2) Grain \$11m up.
Total \$10m up.
- (3) Yes.

(4) Significant variations are:—

- Ores and minerals down \$3.7m
- Energy reserves down \$1.0m
- Intersystem freight up \$1.4m
- Other up \$2.3m.

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Light Rail System: London

3178. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of work starting on a light railway system which will link London's financial centre in the City with the area to the east on the north bank of the Thames?
- (2) Has the performance of the proposed trains of two articulated cars and about 30 metres long been examined?
- (3) Have the cars mentioned in (2) been found to be suitable for Perth's rail passenger service?
- (4) What progress has been made towards introducing an economic light rail vehicle into Perth's passenger rail service?
- (5) When is it expected the first light rail vehicle will be purchased?
- (6) Will he please table the report on the introduction of light rail vehicles into Perth's metropolitan transport services?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) This has not been evaluated under the study into a technologically advanced and more cost effective railcar because the vehicles relate to an electrified system. However the terms of reference of the current urban electrification study, which is proceeding include consideration of rail/bus type electrified vehicles such as that mentioned.
- (4) to (6) Registrations of interest and preliminary technical proposals have been received from manufacturers of technologically advanced and more cost effective railcars throughout the world and these are being evaluated by Westrail. I expect to receive the report shortly.

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Electrification: Report

3180. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the report into electrification of Perth's passenger rail service been completed?
- (2) If "Yes", will he please table a copy?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when is the report expected?
- (4) Referring to (3), will he table the report when it is completed?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The report is expected later this year.
- (4) I will consider arrangements for publishing the report and its findings when I am in receipt of it.

SEWERAGE

Westfield: Scheme 6B

3184. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Now that the Government has decided to proceed with Westfield 6A reticulated sewerage scheme against the majority opinion of the owners does the Government now intend to proceed with Westfield scheme 6B?
- (2) If the Government does not intend to proceed with scheme 6B now, when does it intend to reconsider its position in this regard?
- (3) When the sewers in Westfield 6A scheme are designed is it a policy requirement that owners have the right to comment?
- (4) Is it intended to invite owners' comment on the designed scheme?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4), when is the invitation expected to be advertised?
- (6) If "No" to (4), when is the work expected to begin?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) When the MWA surveyed the 360 property owners/occupiers in area Westfield 6A, 144 objected to the sewerage proposals. The decision to proceed with the design of the scheme was based on a comprehensive survey of septic tank per-

formance conducted by the Public Health Department.

There is no current proposal to proceed with the sewerage reticulation in area Westfield 6B.

- (2) Part of the original area Westfield 6B was included in Westfield 6A. Priority for the provision of sewerage to the remainder of Westfield 6B will be reassessed following a period of above average winter rainfall.
- (3) and (4) In accordance with statutory requirements, the Water Authority will serve notice of its intention to proceed with the works and any affected person may comment or object.
- (5) 1986.
- (6) Not applicable.

CHEMICALS: UREA AND AMMONIA PLANT

Establishment: Bunbury

3185. Mr P. J. SMITH, to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is it proposed to establish a urea and ammonia plant in Western Australia?
- (2) Is it proposed to establish a urea and ammonia plant at Bunbury?
- (3) Will such a plant require something like 500 000 kilolitres of hot water to be disposed of every day?
- (4) Is it expected that the waste water from the proposed urea and ammonia plant will be of a lower temperature than that of a power plant similar to Muja Stage D?
- (5) If so, what are the comparative figures?
- (6) At what distance off shore is it proposed to release the hot water into the ocean?
- (7) Has a site for such a plant been selected at Bunbury?
- (8) Has an environmental impact study been undertaken to examine the proposed project?
- (9) If not, why not?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) to (9) The Government has received a number of expressions of interest in the establishment of a world-scale ammonia plant in Western Australia. This interest has taken the form of pre-feasibility studies, and as part of these early

studies, the consortiums are currently examining several potential plant sites (including the Bunbury area).

The quantity and temperature of cooling water emanating from the plant will be dependent on the process technology adopted. The studies to date are not sufficiently advanced to enable a detailed assessment of this aspect. The questions raised can only be addressed when the detailed process design studies are available.

The Government will ensure that when more specific proposals as to the possible location of the plant are known, the proposal will be subject to the normal environmental impact assessment procedures.

3190. *Postponed.*

TRANSPORT: NORTH-WESTERN SUBURBS

Improved Programme

3191. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the improved programme of public transport services in the north west suburbs including services on Sundays and evenings to be policy standards to apply to the metropolitan region?
- (2) If "Yes", when will the whole region enjoy these services?
- (3) If "No" to (1), why is the Government apparently discriminating against the majority of public transport users?
- (4) What is the estimated increased cost to the Metropolitan Transport Trust on an annual basis for the increased services being introduced into the north west suburbs?
- (5) What would be the estimated cost to the Metropolitan Transport Trust for similar services introduced throughout the metropolitan region?
- (6) Will the Metropolitan Transport Trust now extend to Kelmscott, Westfield, West Kelmscott, Armadale, Forrestdale, Karragullen, Roleystone, Bedforddale, Clifton Hills, Byford, Mundijong, Jarrahdale, Serpentine and, in fact, to all parts of the Armadale region, improved bus and rail services, including increases in Sunday and evening public transport

services of equal standard to the north west suburbs?

- (7) If "Yes" to (6), when will the upgrading take place?
- (8) If "No" to (6), will he detail the reasons for not treating all public transport users equally within a common policy and the reasons for introducing a policy which appears to discriminate between areas?
- (9) Will the Metropolitan Transport Trust now upgrade bus services linking Armadale and Fremantle and between the Armadale region and the coast?
- (10) Will the Metropolitan Transport Trust avail itself of the new road system shortly to open linking Armadale to Perth via Ranford Road, South Street and Kwinana Freeway to route buses for faster services.

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) to (3) Cost-efficient improvement of public transport has been a policy pursued relentlessly by the Government since its first day in office.
- (4) Approximately \$200 000 per annum after accounting for additional revenue.
- (5) to (9) The member seems to be suggesting that any change made to public transport in one part of the Metropolitan region should be replicated in every other part. If that is the case, we are left to wonder why he closed Fremantle's rail service while retaining Armadale's and why a bus-rail interchange was built at Kelmscott and not at Bassendean. It is an entirely spurious and divisive argument to condemn worthwhile improvements in public transport on the basis that they did not occur in or near one's own electorate. Despite the member's parochial insinuations, I happily record the Government's commitment to a strong and virile public transport system for all the region. If he has detailed and realistic suggestions for particular improvements, I would be delighted to pass them on to the MTT for evaluation.
- (10) In planning services, the MTT considers any road network available and the potential patronage on the network. In this case the possibility of competition with existing services including the excellent rail link precludes any major new bus service.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Intrastate: Contingency Plan

3193. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What contingency plan does the Government have in the event of arrangements for the intra-state two airline policy approved as from 1 April threatening services to intermediate ports, such as Learmonth, to ensure maintenance of minimum acceptable levels of service to this and similar ports?
- (2) Will the Government consider opening up all ports on the Northern airline network to competition in order to maintain minimum levels of service to all ports, or alternatively, require both airlines to service all ports in order to ensure this minimum service?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The member should note that the State Government is not pursuing an intra-state two airline policy. However as stated in answer to question No 3196 (3) the Commissioner of Transport will have a 30 day period in which to address any problems created by changes to services to intermediate ports. A number of possible options have been identified for further consideration if the need arises.
- (2) These are two options which could be considered. The opening up of the Kimberley ports to competition, in particular, is an approach which would receive close examination. Whilst there is some doubt that some of the smaller centres could support competitive air services, some sharing of the responsibility for servicing these ports between both airlines could be considered.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: JETTIES

Coode Street: Meeting

3199. Mr GRAYDEN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Co-ordinator General of Transport been able to arrange as yet a meeting between the South Perth City Council, the Metropolitan Transport Trust and the Department of Marine and Harbours in respect of the Coode Street Jetty, South Perth?
- (2) If so, with what results?

- (3) If not, when is it expected that the meeting will take place?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) to (3) A meeting is scheduled for next week.

ECONOMY: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Western Australia

3202. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) What was Western Australia's gross domestic product, as referred to by him during debate on the Land Tax Assessment Bill, for the years ended—
 (a) 30 June 1980;
 (b) 30 June 1981;
 (c) 30 June 1982;
 (d) 30 June 1983;
 (e) 30 June 1984?

- (2) What was the revenue figure used to arrive at the statistics quoted in that speech?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The information will be sought and the member advised in due course.
 (2) The revenue figures referred to were from the Consolidated Revenue Fund estimates presented to Parliament as part of the Budget.

HEALTH: FLUORIDE EMISSIONS

Aluminium Smelters

3205. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has any data been collected on the effect of fluoride emissions from aluminium smelters on—
 (a) people;
 (b) animals?
- (2) If so, is this available and where?
- (3) Has any data been collected on workers at aluminium smelters as to any effects fluoride has on their health?
- (4) Does the Health Department have a policy on how far from an aluminium smelter people should live?
- (5) Does the Health Department have a policy on how far from an aluminium smelter animals for human consumption should be grazed?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) (a) Yes;
 (b) yes.
 (2) and (3) In medical and scientific literature available from libraries and academic institutions.

In addition, the Health Department, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Department of Agriculture has produced a pamphlet which includes both aspects. A copy of this is tabled.

- (4) and (5) Yes, buffer zones should be incorporated and their size is determined using computerised air dispersion models compiled for each individual situation. Factors such as location, wind speeds and estimated fluoride emissions are taken into consideration.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 611).

3209 and 3210. *Postponed.*

HEALTH: RADIATION

Dump: Malaysia

3213. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has it been factually reported that a State Government radiation scientist has been prevented by the Commonwealth Government to join a United Nations mission to inspect a radiation dump site in Malaysia?
- (2) If so, what, if any, action has the Government taken to object against such Commonwealth decision?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) and (2) The Health Department was invited by the Commonwealth to provide a radiation physicist to join the team. The Western Australian Government agreed to oblige, however, the Commonwealth Government's initiative never eventuated.

MINERALS: REVENUE

Study Group: Report

3214. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Will he table the interim report by the study group headed by Professor Paul Bradley on the mineral revenue system?

(2) If not, why not?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1) and (2) The release of the report is presently under consideration.

ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Hydroelectricity: Ord River

3215. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

In connection with the proposed new hydroelectric power station on the Ord River, what is the calculated and expected number of years during which the new station is amortised? In other words, when will the balance between the aggregate expenditure, such as interest, running costs, maintenance and capital repayments of this new plant, and the aggregate expenditure such as fuel, labour, depreciation etc., which would have arisen with equal quantity electricity generation with the existing plants, reach \$10 million, being the reported capital cost of the new hydroelectric station?

Mr PARKER replied:

The expected life of the hydroelectric power station is 30 years. The payback period for the project is 6 to 8 years depending on load growth in the area.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Security of Tenure

3217. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Under what security of tenure or form of tenement, is the Marandoo iron ore deposit currently held?

Mr PARKER replied:

The Marandoo deposit is within TR 5623 H one of the tenement areas held by the Joint Venturers; New Broken Hill Consolidated Limited, Hancock Prospecting Pty. Limited and Wright Prospecting Pty. Limited under the Iron Ore (Wittenoom) Agreement Act 1972.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Port Facilities

3218. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

With regard to the suggested Marandoo iron ore project, what are the intentions of the Government and Mr Hancock where the establishment of new port loading facilities are concerned?

Mr PARKER replied:

Development planning for the Marandoo project is understood to include use of established Hamersley Iron railroad and port facilities; however some separate stockpile and other port facilities may be required for Marandoo.

Detailed development planning will have to be submitted by the Joint Venturers as formal proposals under the Iron Ore (Wittenoom) Agreement Act 1972, for approval by Government.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Rumanian Plant and Equipment

3219. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the announced intention to import Rumanian plant and equipment for the Marandoo iron ore project is the Government aware of the extent of the plant and equipment to be imported?
- (2) If so, what is the present Australian dollar value of the plant and equipment involved?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) and (2) Hancock and Wright have advised that they have proposed that plant and equipment valued at about \$75-100 million could be imported from Rumania. However, these matters are still under review by the proposed Joint Venturers.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd.

3220. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the suggested Marandoo iron ore project, has the Government undertaken any discussions with Hamersley Iron regarding the project?

- (2) Has Hamersley Iron considered and approved the use of its railway and port trading facilities as implied in the announcement of arrangements between Mr Hancock and the Rumanian Government?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Yes, subject to detailed arrangements to be agreed.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Marketing

3221. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Having regard to the necessity to secure considerably more sales tonnage before the Marandoo iron ore project is economically viable, is the Government intending to become involved in assisting with marketing ore from Marandoo?
(2) If so, by what method is the Government intending to assist with this market development?

Mr PARKER replied:

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

ALUMINIUM SMELTER: SITES

Alternative

3222. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

In determining the location of the proposed aluminium smelter in the south-west, is the Government prepared to consider any location other than Kemerton?

Mr PARKER replied:

The process of determining the location of the proposed aluminium smelter has involved consideration of a number of potential sites over a number of years. This process has resulted in two locations showing greater potential for the smelter. The Kemerton (or Wellesley) site is now the subject of a complete Environmental Review and Management Programme report. Government will wait for public consideration of this report and the subsequent Environmental Protection Authority's consideration and

advice to Government before making any decision.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER: SITES

Preferred

3223. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

On what date did the Government advise the intending participants in the south-west aluminium smelter that Kemerton was the Government's preferred site, and no other locations would be considered regardless of the alternate preference of at least one of the participants?

Mr PARKER replied:

The question is based on a false premise. See answer to question 3222.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Discussions

3224. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the suggested Marandoo iron ore project, what discussions did the Government undertake with any of the proposed participants prior to the announcement being made on Monday, 15 April 1985?
(2) Were discussions undertaken with Mr Hancock to establish the extent and value of the Rumanian market?
(3) Does the Government consider that the suggested Rumanian market is sufficient to ensure the economic viability of the project?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) A number of discussions have been held with both CRA Services Limited (representing New Broken Hill Consolidated Limited) and with Hancock and Wright management prior to 15 April 1985.
(2) Yes. Minister Julian Grill (representing Minister David Parker) has also accompanied Hancock Prospecting Management on an inspection visit to Rumania.
(3) Insufficient information is available to Government at this stage to determine likely viability. Mr Hancock has signed an agreement with the Rumanians for a total sale of 53 million tonnes. Under the

proposed Joint Venture arrangements CRA would take responsibility for 50 per cent of the output of the new mine and have indicated their willingness to market it in the normal way.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Schedule

3225. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the proposed Marandoo iron ore project, what time has been established by the Government for the presenting of detailed proposals?
- (2) When is it intended that the environmental review and management programme will be prepared?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The Iron Ore (Wittenoom) Agreement Act 1972 required detailed proposals to be submitted by 31-12-84. The Participants have requested an extension of time within which to submit proposals.
- (2) It is expected that consideration of environmental aspects of the project will be part of the detailed project planning to be addressed by the Joint Venturers.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Marandoo: Agreement Act

3226. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is it intended that the Marandoo iron ore project will be the subject of an Agreement Act to be ratified by Parliament?
- (2) If so, when is it hoped that such an Agreement will be finalised and presented to Parliament?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) and (2) The Project is subject to the existing provisions of the Iron Ore (Wittenoom) Agreement Act 1972.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: FREMANTLE

Disputes: Statistics

3228. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

Will he please provide details of industrial disputes and stoppages within the Port of Fremantle from 20 February 1985 to 4 April 1985, in the same form

as he provided in answer to question 2836 on Tuesday, 26 March 1985?

Mr GRILL replied:

Date	Vessel	Details
26/2/85	"Sunny Ocean"	MWU Threat of Bans
27/2/85	Various	WWF & AFSA Stopwork Meeting (7.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m.)
1/3/85	Various	AF SA 24 Hour National ban on double headers.
14/3/85	—	SUA 24 Hour Ban on Japanese flag
14-15/3/85	Various	SSA 24 Hour National Strike—Award Conditions
18/3/85	"Mukairish Alhani"	WWF Manning Dispute (7.30 a.m.-8.40 a.m.)
21/3/85	Various	MSG Pilots Stopwork Meeting (9 a.m.-10 a.m.)
22/3/85	—	MSG Tug Crews Stopwork Meeting (9.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m.)
22/3/85	"Flinders Bay"	WWF Stopped work because of oil leak (2.30 p.m.-5 p.m.)
29/3/85	—	WWF stopped work because of roster dispute (7.30 a.m.-2.30 p.m.)
1/4/85	"Norles"	WWF refused to work until vessel fumigated (4 p.m.-9.30 p.m.)
2/4/85	"Norles"	WWF refused to work because of unsafe sheep races (7.30 a.m.-8.45 a.m.).

Legend

MWU
WWF
AFSA
SUA
SSA
MSG

Maritime Workers Union
Waterside Workers Union
Australian Foreman Stevedores Association
Seamens Union of Australia
Stevedoring Supervisors Association
Merchant Service Guild

SHOPPING: TRADING HOURS

Inquiry: Completion

3231. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Will the Government's inquiry on trading hours be completed and the results made public by 30 June 1985?
- (2) If "No", when will it be completed?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) I am advised by the Minister for Industrial Relations that the completion date for the inquiry is yet to be determined.

3233. *Postponed.*

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: BANK

IBJ (Australia) Bank: Japanese Equity

3235. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Has a timetable been established for when the Industrial Bank of Japan can lift its equity in the new bank to be based in Perth?
- (2) If "Yes", what is that timetable?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The timetable will be dependent upon decisions of Federal authorities but the activities of the proposed IBJ Australian Bank are ultimately the responsibility of its Board of Directors and Management.

3238. *Postponed.*

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Applications

3239. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Technology:

- (1) How many applications for funds from the Western Australian Technology Development Fund have been received?
- (2) How many have been approved?
- (3) What are the companies or individuals who have received funds?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (3) This information is currently being compiled and the member will be advised by letter in due course.

BUSINESSES: SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEES SCHEME

Departmental Responsibility

3240. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Small Business:

What Government department will administer the Small Business Guarantees Scheme?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The Small Business Development Corporation is to administer the scheme under my control.

3243. *Postponed.*

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Projects: Department of Industrial Development Advice

3245. Mr COURT, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Does the Western Australian Development Corporation advise the Department of Industrial Development of projects it is currently working on?

- (2) Is the Department of Industrial Development currently involved in any of these projects?

- (3) If "Yes", what projects is it involved in?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (3) Commercial proposals to WADC are treated with complete confidentiality. The Department of Industrial Development will be consulted on matters within its area of expertise without disclosure of commercially sensitive information.

3246. *Postponed.*

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: LOCAL PREFERENCE

Elimination: Support

3247. Mr COURT, to the Deputy Premier:

In the event that the State Government supports the elimination of the "State Preference" scheme will it be conditional on the Federal Government lowering Australia's protective tariffs?

Mr BRYCE replied:

It is too early to identify what action the Commonwealth Government may take in response to the removal of purchasing preferences by the States.

Conditions will be negotiated through the workings of the State Preference and Industrial Restructuring Advisory Committee (SPIRAC). A Western Australian representative will be appointed to SPIRAC.

3250. *Postponed.*

SHOPPING: MYER WA STORES LTD.

Purchasing: Local

3251. Mr COURT, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) With regard to the undertaking given by the Myer Emporium group when it acquired Boans stores in Western Australia, has the Government maintained a liaison with Myer regarding their purchasing within Western Australia?
- (2) Has the Myer group maintained their Western Australian purchasing arrangements as they promised?

- (3) Have any Western Australian suppliers now been disadvantaged by the take-over in not being able to still supply the former Boans stores?
- (4) If so, what action is the Government taking to ensure that the original undertaking to maintain Western Australian purchasing will be honoured?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. In fact Myers have exceeded the level of purchasing established in their original undertaking.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The original undertaking to maintain Western Australian purchasing at the aggregate levels which applied at the time of the take over is being honoured by Myers.

TECHNOLOGY: COMPUTERS

Prisons Department: Tenders

3252. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Technology:

- (1) Have tenders been let for the micro computer equipment required by the Prisons Department?
- (2) If "Yes", what tender was accepted?

Mr BRYCE replied:

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

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: TRANSPORT

Specified Companies

3253. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Adverting to the reply given to part (3) of question 3112 of 1985 concerning Government tendering, what are the circumstances which could cause such a request?
- (2) Is it Government policy to specify one private transport company in preference to another private transport company?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) The matter is being examined and the Member will be advised by letter.

3256. *Postponed.*

LIQUOR: LICENCES

Fees: Criteria

3257. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What criteria are used by the licensing court as to the fee charged to the applicant to—
 - (a) an application to licence a restaurant;
 - (b) an extension or renovation of a licenced premises;
 - (c) or transference of a licence from one premises to another?
- (2) Is the fee a standard fee or a scale of fees for (1)?
- (3) If there is a scale of fees would the Minister release a copy of the fees?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) (a) There is no fee charged to the applicant on lodgement of a notice of application to license a restaurant.
- (b) \$20.
- (c) There is no fee payable by an applicant on lodgement of a notice of application to remove a licence.
- (2) and (3) The scale of fees is set out in the Schedule to the Liquor Regulations 1983.

ENERGY: GAS

Liquid Natural Gas: Motor Vehicles

3258. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has experimentation and cost benefit analysis been carried out into the use of liquid natural gas on motor vehicles (including buses and trucks)?
- (2) If so, has the investigation been completed?
- (3) If not, and an investigation is underway, when will the report be finished?
- (4) If no investigation has taken place, will he have an investigation carried out as to the advantages and disadvantages of the use of liquid natural gas?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (i) to (4) I assume the Member means within Government Departments. I as-

sume he is also aware of the differences between liquid natural gas, compressed natural gas and liquid petroleum gas.

The MTT has liquid petroleum gas and compressed natural gas buses in service and is developing the technology with a view to a wider introduction of these alternative fuels, particularly compressed natural gas.

I understand the SEC has had an ongoing test programme for some years with light vehicles running on liquid petroleum gas and compressed natural gas. Many taxis and other private cars and commercial vehicles in this State also use liquid petroleum gas.

Departmental engineers are aware that liquid natural gas has been used experimentally in trucks and are monitoring developments. They take the view that, at the present time, compressed natural gas and liquid petroleum gas are more appropriate fuels in Western Australia and they are concentrating development efforts on those fuels. The cryogenic plant necessary for liquid natural gas would be expensive.

ENERGY: GAS

Pipeline: Dampier-Wagerup

3259. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

(1) Has the State Energy Commission paid farmers their compensation for the laying of the gas pipeline from the North West Shelf to Bunbury?

(2) If so, have all farmers been paid?

(3) If not, when will the farmers be paid their compensation?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1) Approximately 85% of property owners have been compensated and negotiations are continuing in the normal way with the outstanding 15%.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

WILDLIFE PARK

Northern Jarrah Forest

3260. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Has he received a request to establish an animal park in the Northern jarrah forest?

(2) If so, has a site been chosen?

(3) If so, where?

(4) Is he in agreement with the proposal?

Mr EVANS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Until such time as the likely impact of the proposal on various sites under consideration has been assessed, I will not make a decision.

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Murray Districts: Emergency Power

3261. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Is he aware that the Murray Districts Hospital has the 7KVA generator as a back-up in case of power failure which belongs to the State Emergency Services?

(2) Is this to continue or does he intend to supply the Murray Districts Hospital with its own emergency power plant?

(3) If so, is the emergency power plant to be the same output or larger?

Mr HODGE replied:

(1) Yes, however the loan generator is only to supply additional lighting and power to sections of the Casualty Department. The remainder of the Hospital and some parts of Casualty are served by the hospital's emergency generator.

(2) The loan generator and the current emergency hospital generator are both being replaced with a 35KVA emergency generator.

(3) The replacement generator is on site and currently being installed. It is a 100 per cent increase in capacity on the previous hospital generator.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

"Jaws of Life"

3262. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Is he aware of the conflict of interests between the Fire Brigades Board and State Emergency Services at Mandurah over the "Jaws of Life" under the control of the Fire Brigade?
- (2) Does the department approve the Fire Brigade being in charge of the "Jaws of Life" when they were purchased by contributions from the region to be used on a regional basis and not just at Mandurah?
- (3) Is the Mandurah Fire Brigade allowed to travel to areas outside the Mandurah townsite, such as Pinjarra?
- (4) If not, would the responsibility of the "Jaws of Life" best lie with the State Emergency Services?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Answered by (3) above.

HOUSING: FIRST HOME OWNERS SCHEME

Demand

3263. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Because of the success of the Federal Government's First Home Owners Scheme has any effect been noticed on the demand for housing, either rental or purchase, by the State Housing Commission?
- (2) If so, what has been the effect?
- (3) Does the State Housing Commission have schemes to try to get people to purchase State Housing Commission homes?
- (4) If so, what is, or are, the scheme(s)?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) and (2) It is clearly evident that the Federal Government's First Home Owners Scheme, which includes both lump sum and instalment options has provided home purchase opportunity to persons who would not otherwise have had (or

considered that they did not have) the capacity to purchase.

The Scheme, combined with the State Government's injection of substantial funds towards providing loans to people on low and moderate incomes to purchase a home, has assisted in a much greater volume of State Housing Commission loans being offered to purchasers.

- (3) and (4) The State Housing Commission has schemes available for people to purchase both private and Commission homes.

The schemes which are based on matching the applicants' instalments to capacity to pay, include first mortgage, flexible deposit, shared equity.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER

Rail Link: Route

3264. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the route been determined by Westrail for the proposed rail link to the proposed Kemerton smelter site?
- (2) Did Westrail have a meeting on 16 April 1985 with people whose farms may be affected by the rail link?
- (3) Was this a public meeting?
- (4) Were all farmers who may be affected by the rail link notified of the meeting?
- (5) Why was the meeting kept low key?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) A preferred route has been determined.
- (2) A Westrail representative attended a meeting with farmers on April 16 convened by the Department of Resources Development.
- (3) and (4) I understand the Harvey Shire council notified all farmers who may be affected by the rail link of the meeting and that the meeting was attended by all farmers notified except one.
- (5) Answered by (3) and (4).

3265. *Postponed.*

HEALTH: HOSPITALS

Royal Perth: North Block

3266. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Did the architectural work for the north block of the Royal Perth Hospital go out to tender?
- (2) If so, how many firms tendered?
- (3) Was a short list, or were short lists, established?
- (4) If so, what were the names of the firms on that short list, or those short lists?
- (5) What firm or firms were given the job?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) In accordance with Government policy, "Procedures for the Selection of Architects and Consultants for Building Projects", six architectural firms were requested to prepare a credentials submission for consideration for the architectural documentation and partial design development of the Royal Perth Hospital—North Block.
- (2) and (3) Five submissions were received. Three were short-listed and the principals subsequently interviewed.
- (4) Hobbs, Winning, Leighton and partners; Barrett, Koivisto, Scatena (Consortium); Parry and Rosenthal/Summerhayes, Way and Associates/Hodge and Willcox Pty. Ltd. (Consortium).
- (5) A joint venture of Hobbs, Winning, Leighton and Partners and Barrett, Koivisto, Scatena (Consortium) were commissioned.

3267 to 3269. *Postponed.*

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Crossing: South Armadale Industrial Estate

3270. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware the Town of Armadale has agreed to allocate \$50 000 from the 1985-86 budget towards installation of the South Armadale industrial railway crossing?
- (2) Will he arrange for Westrail and the Main Roads Department to contribute the balance of funds needed to enable the crossing to be installed?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) A preliminary estimate to construct a new crossing at this location would be in the order of \$140 000.

I am not aware of any recent formal submission by Council on funding arrangements. However, because of low priority it would be expected that a greater contribution would be needed by parties other than Government Authorities.

HEALTH: ALCOHOL

Alcohol and Drug Authority: Mt. Lawley Premises

3271. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Health:

When will the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Authority commence occupation of the former Royal Perth Hospital site in Field Street, Mount Lawley?

Mr HODGE replied:

It is not possible to give an exact date, but the anticipated occupation will be before the end of 1985.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: STIRLING CITY COUNCIL

Chinese Restaurant Rezoning: Queen's Counsel Opinion

3272. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Planning:

Further to his reply to question without notice 987 on Thursday, 4 April 1985, has he had discussions with His Worship the Mayor of the City of Stirling, Councillor T. J. Tyzack, to establish the purpose of the council's earlier request that the Minister provide the council with a copy of the opinion of Mr D. K. Malcolm QC in respect of the Australian Labor Party Chinese restaurant in Nollamara?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I am meeting with Mr Tyzack at 4.45 p.m. today.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Purchase

3273. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it current State Housing Commission policy to purchase established houses in

either the country or metropolitan area for rental purposes?

(2) If "Yes"—

(a) how many houses were purchased in 1982-83 and 1983-84; and

(b) what was the capital outlay?

Mr WILSON replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) 1982-83—There was no Spot Purchase Scheme in this period.

1983-84—83 were purchased and settlement finalised.

(b) Capital outlay was \$3 159 580.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS: AWARDS

Flow-through: Legislation

3274. Mr MENSAROS, to the Premier:

(1) Adverting to his reply to question 2505 of 1985, has Cabinet yet considered the report of officers considering the legislative options to restrain the growth of awards in compensation cases?

(2) If "Yes", what decision has Cabinet reached?

(3) If "No" to (1), when is the decision going to be made?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) In the near future.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: DREDGING

Peel Inlet: Australian Shipbuilding Industries (WA) Pty. Ltd.

3275. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for the Environment:

What is the result of the review mentioned in his reply to question 2531 of 1985, about the problem of dredging proposals by Australian Shipbuilding Industries in Peel Inlet?

Mr DAVIES replied:

The review has not yet been completed as some aspects need to relate to work done by the Peel-Harvey Project Team.

3276. *Postponed.*

LAND: NATIONAL PARKS

Bungle Bungle: EPA Report

3277. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for the Environment:

Has he received a report and recommendations as yet from the Environmental Protection Authority regarding the proposal for the Bungle Bungle ranges to become a national park?

Mr DAVIES replied:

No, however it is hoped that the matter will be considered by the EPA at its next meeting in two weeks' time.

WORKS: BUILDING MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Functions

3278. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Can he now reply in merit to question 2575 of 1985, pertaining to the duties of the Building Management Authority and other arms of Government which took over responsibilities from the now defunct Public Works Department architectural division?

Mr McIVER replied:

The roles of the Building Management Authority, in accordance with the policies and priorities of Government, are—

to design government buildings;

to manage the procurement of government buildings;

to maintain and improve existing buildings;

to provide advice to Government on matters related to the building industry.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES: ACCOMMODATION

Dumas House

3279. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

(1) Adverting to question 2576 of 1985, is he now in the position to state which Government departments/agencies will share Dumas House with the Building Management Authority?

- (2) Can he also state how many officers are leaving Dumas House and how many will move in, in their place?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) The Health Department of Western Australia.
- (2) The exact numbers of staff leaving and entering Dumas House have not yet been finalised.

ENERGY: PETROLEUM

Exploration: Canning Basin

3280. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Now that more than a month has elapsed since his reply to question 2578, would he please say who is or are the successful applicant(s) for Petroleum Exploration Area L84-73?

Mr PARKER replied:

An offer has been made. Upon acceptance an announcement will be made by me.

3281. *Postponed.*

MINERALS: PROSPECTING

Licence: Lake Gngangara

3282. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Adverting to his reply to question 2913 of 1985, has he yet received advice from the Department of Conservation and the Environment regarding the prospecting licence application over Lake Gngangara?
- (2) If so, what is his advice?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) That Prospecting Licence 70/261 is not considered to be contrary to the System 6 Recommendations pertaining to Lake Gngangara provided protective conditions are imposed including a requirement to submit a Notice of Intent to the Minister for Minerals and Energy and the Environmental Protection Authority describing proposed operations and an assessment of its environmental effects. The advice, together with other comments, is under consideration.

STOCK: WA LIVESTOCK AND FOOD PTY. LTD.

Establishment: Cabinet

3283. Mr PETER JONES, to the Premier:

- (1) Was the decision to establish Western Australian Livestock and Food Pty Ltd, as an incorporated public company, a decision made by State Cabinet?
- (2) Were the directors of this company appointed by Cabinet?
- (3) If not, by whom were they recommended and appointed?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Directors have not yet been finalised.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: MARINAS

Bunbury: Feasibility Study

3284. Mr P. J. SMITH, to the Minister with special responsibility for "Bunbury 2000":

- (1) Is a feasibility study into a marina for Bunbury presently being conducted?
- (2) If "Yes", who is conducting the study and under which department?
- (3) When is the study due to be completed?
- (4) Have particular groups been asked to submit ideas to the study?
- (5) If so, which particular groups have been asked?
- (6) Has the general public been asked to comment or put forward proposals?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) No feasibility study is being carried out by the Department of Marine and Harbours.
- (2) to (6) Not applicable.

HOUSING: CONSTRUCTION

Shire of Irwin

3285. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Housing:
- Would he please provide details of houses planned to be constructed in the Shire of Irwin for the forthcoming year for the—

- (a) State Housing Commission;
- (b) Government Employees' Housing Authority,

indicating the department?

Mr WILSON replied:

The programme has not been finally determined and is subject to availability of funds.

The preliminary programme indicates the construction of:

State Housing Commission—

- 4 Aged Persons Units—Dongara
- 2 x 3 bedroom single detached houses—Leeman

Government Employees' Housing Authority—

- 2 x 2 bedroom apartments—Dongara
- 1 x 3 bedroom single detached house—Dongara

AGRICULTURE: VERMIN

White Italian Snails: Control

3286. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has any progress been made in research for an economical method of control of the white Italian snails which plague coastal limestone areas and which foul crops and pastures to the north and south of Geraldton?
- (2) What was the result of the examination into the feasibility of sending an officer to the United States of America to investigate biological control methods being used in that country?
- (3) Would he please provide details?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture has developed a programme for the control of the White Italian Snail in the Dongara/Geraldton area. The programme involves cultural techniques, including burning, cropping, grazing and strategic baiting with pellets.

Snail rakes for harvesting were also developed to prevent snails contaminating the grain.

- (2) An application to the relevant industry fund to send an entomologist to the United States of America to study contemporary biocontrol of snails was un-

successful, as was a subsequent approach to fund a CSIRO national programme.

CSIRO has a limited programme on a closely allied snail in South Australia and proposes searching for parasites overseas when funding is available.

- (3) Covered by (1) and (2).

FIRES: BUSHFIRES

Lancelin: Cost

3287. Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the inconvenience, cost and loss of time caused to the Dandaragan Shire and bush fire volunteer brigades as a result of the recent bushfire north of Lancelin?
- (2) Will he confirm whether the fire was started as a result of gunnery practice or field exercises by the Army?
- (3) What fire fighting equipment does the Army have to combat such outbreaks which appear to be a regular occurrence?
- (4) Will he investigate the desirability of the Army carrying out such exercises during the winter months when the fire danger is very low?
- (5) Can he give the monetary loss experienced by the Dandaragan Shire as a result of graders being used to grade fire breaks in rough limestone country causing—
 - (a) breakdown and heavy wear and tear;
 - (b) overtime paid to operators working long hours through the night;
 - (c) loss of time on normal shire work?
- (6) Will the Dandaragan Shire be reimbursed for these losses?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that the Army has not accepted that this bushfire originated on its property.
- (3) This information is being collected and will be sent to the Member by letter.
- (4) The timing and conduct of such manoeuvres is entirely a matter for the Army.
- (5) No.

- (6) I am unaware of any approach to the Department of Defence by the Shire for such reimbursement.

ROAD: TONKIN HIGHWAY

Extension

3288. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Will he advise when the Beechboro-Gosnells Highway will be extended south from Gosnells?
- (2) Will he also advise where the highway will eventually finish up south from Gosnells?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Beechboro-Gosnells, now Tonkin Highway, reserve in the Metropolitan Region Scheme extends to Ranford Road.

A planning strategy for the South-East Corridor published by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in September 1980 proposed that Tonkin Highway reserve be entered south from Ranford Road on an alignment parallel with Hopkinson Road as far as Mundijong.

Further studies of the proposed route are in progress so that the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority may consider a final route for inclusion on the Scheme map by amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS LICENSING BOARD

Members

3289. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) With regard to the Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board, who are the current members of the board?
- (2) When do their present terms of appointment expire?
- (3) Is there currently a member who deals in motor trucks?
- (4) If not, will the Government consider the appointment of a member who is currently engaged in the selling and servicing of trucks?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2)

Mr R. J. Cooper—Chairman—7/4/86

Mr C. W. Houghton—Member—8/4/87

Mr W. F. Harry—Member—8/4/87

Mr I. C. Miller—Member—8/4/87

Mr F. Castiglione—Member—8/4/87

- (3) Yes.

- (4) Not applicable.

3290. *Postponed.*

DISCRIMINATION: EMPLOYMENT

Treaties and Conventions

3291. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Does the Government support the various Treaties and Conventions relating to the requirement that there should be no discrimination in employment opportunities?
- (2) If so, what action is taken by the Government to ensure that there is no enforced discrimination in employment opportunities within Western Australia?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Government support and legislative action, if any, depends on the treaty under consideration.
- (2) The State Government's policy is to support non-discriminating practices generally. That policy is reflected in this State's Equal Opportunity legislation passed in November last year and due to be proclaimed in the near future.

EDUCATION: SCHOOLS

Photographers: Departmental Recommendations

3292. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Education Department recommend any particular photograph company, or photographer, to undertake school class pictures?
- (2) If so, which is the preferred firm or photographer?
- (3) Is it usual for the Education Department to specify a preferred photographer or photographic company?

- (4) If a particular firm or photographer or company is preferred—
 - (a) for what reason was the choice made;
 - (b) who are the principals of the company;
 - (c) for how long has the arrangement been preferred;
 - (d) is the arrangement preference to be reviewed;
 - (e) were other firms and photographers considered when determining this matter?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) Not applicable.

HEALTH: MEDICAL REGISTRATION BOARD

Members

3293. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With regard to the Medical Registration Board, who are the current members of the board?
- (2) What are the terms of reference, functions and powers of the board?
- (3) How often does the board meet?
- (4) What Ministerial authority exists in relation to the activities of the board?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) Dr P. Brine (Chairman)
Dr A. R. Burkitt
Dr P. D. Goatcher
Dr J. B. Stokes
Dr J. C. McNulty
Prof. R. A. Joske
Mr T. Walsh, QC
- (2) The Medical Board is empowered with the responsibility of administering the provisions of the Medical Act 1894-1981 to which Section 6 of the Act refers.
- (3) Once per month.
- (4) The Minister may approve of any meeting of the Board to be held in private. There are discretionary clauses contained in the Act for the Minister to grant:
 - (a) the registration of medical practitioners, with or without the payment of fees;

- (b) the direction of the advertising of vacancies for regional or auxiliary registration and the issuing of certificates or the cancellation of such registration.

COMMUNITY SERVICES: SAFETY HOUSE SCHEME

Government Assistance

3294. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

- (1) (a) Does the Government provide a grant to a school children's refuge scheme known as The Safety House Association;
- (b) if so, how much?
- (2) (a) Is it planning to withdraw this grant;
- (b) if so, why?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) (a) No. However, a Community Employment Programme grant was approved on 28th March, 1984 in order to fund a position for a project officer for a maximum duration of 52 weeks.
- (b) \$27 074.
- (2) (a) No;
- (b) Not applicable.

3295. *Postponed.*

ENERGY: GAS

Hot Water Systems: Replacement

3296. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is he aware that amendments to the Gas Standards Regulations which require consumers to replace unfluted vaillant model 125/3 instantaneous hot water heaters is causing severe financial hardship to many aged pensioners and other people on limited incomes?
- (2) Will he consider some sort of assistance—financial or otherwise—to assist in this matter?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Discussions are under way with my colleague the Hon. Minister for Community Services but no promises can be made at this stage. Each water heater is

inspected and treated on its merits. The Energy Commission advises home owners on how heater replacement costs can be kept to a minimum. The safety of the public is paramount.

AGRICULTURE: RURAL SECTOR HARDSHIP

Select Committee: Reconstitution

3297. Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

Has he received a request from the Primary Industry Association and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association to send the members of the Rural Hardship Committee to Canberra to present their report to the Prime Minister, the Federal Treasurer and the Minister for Primary Industry?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

No. I have not received a letter from the PIA requesting such action.

Yes. I have received a letter from the Pastoralists and Graziers Association—however, the request is for myself to lead a delegation including Mr I. F. Taylor, M.L.A., as Chairman of the Select Committee and one or two other members of the Select Committee to meet with the Prime Minister, and raise the question of hardship in the rural sector.

FIRES: BUSHFIRES

Lancelin: Compensation

3298. Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of the fact that the recent bush fire north of Lancelin originated on Army property and spread to adjacent private property, is it possible for the owners of the private property to claim for damages and losses incurred in the fire from the Army insurance?
- (2) If not, to whom should they make their claim for said damage?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) I am advised that the Army has not accepted that this bushfire originated on their property. My understanding is that any claim for damages caused by military manoeuvres is considered on its merits by the Department of Defence, to which any such claim should be addressed.

APIARY: HONEY

Tourism Commission: Purchase

3299. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Did the Tourism Commission buy an amount of honey to retail through its travel centres from a regional travel association or country tourist body?
- (2) If so, how much honey was purchased and at what cost?
- (3) From whom was the honey purchased?
- (4) When was the honey purchased?
- (5) How much money has been received by the Tourism Commission to date from the sale of that honey?
- (6) Where is the balance of the honey now located?
- (7) Is the honey still being retailed through the WA Holiday Centres?
- (8) If not, why not?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 9 588 units at a total cost of \$26 946.05, including labelling.
- (3) Great Southern Travel Association.
- (4) November 1984.
- (5) \$225.15.
- (6) At the Holiday WA Centre, 772 Hay Street, Perth.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Not applicable.

HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Lot Numbers: Removal

3300. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the State Housing Commission in the process of removing lot numbers from all State Housing houses?
- (2) If so, why is this being done?
- (3) How much will the removal of these numbers cost?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes, except in areas where the properties are not identified by street numbers.
- (2) As the Commission believes that there is no need to specifically identify properties in its ownership, the removal of these numbers is an element of its attempts to

remove any notion of stigma from public housing.

- (3) This work is only being done as part of ex-vacation or cyclical maintenance.

3301. *Postponed.*

TOURISM COMMISSION

Mr Phil Curran: Employment

3302. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has a Mr Phil Curran ever been employed by the Tourism Commission?
- (2) If so, for what purpose?
- (3) What payments have been made to Mr Curran as a consequence to this employment?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

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

TOURISM COMMISSION

Boat Charter: "Key West"

3303. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

Has the Tourism Commission ever chartered the boat *Key West* to assist it with promotion of Rottnest Island?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

No.

HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Tenders: Apprentices

3304. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the State Housing Commission have requirements within their tenders that ensures contractors employ a minimum number of apprentices?
- (2) If not, why does the State Housing Commission not follow this procedure which is followed by the Building Management Authority in all contracts it lets?

Mr WILSON replied:

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

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: PUBLIC SERVICE

Job Sharing: Report

3305. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) With respect to the report entitled "Job Sharing and Permanent Part Time Work in the State Public Service" referred to in question 2949 of 28 March, did the Minister advise a correspondent seeking information on that report in November 1984 that: "The report to which you refer is near completion, being in the process of final editorial assessment and I expect that it will be forwarded to my office for my consideration within the next three weeks."?
- (2) How is it that this report which was nearing completion in November 1984 has yet to be completed?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) Due to its obvious implications for the Public Service, the Report to which you have referred has been forwarded, in draft form, to the Public Service Board. Discussions at officer level, between my Department and the Public Service Board are in progress.

TOURISM: HOLIDAY WA CENTRES

Merlin Centre: Lease

3306. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) When was the office occupied by the Tourism Commission in the Merlin Centre occupied by the Tourism Commission?
- (2) When was the lease for these premises signed?
- (3) What are the terms of the lease (ie the rent per square metre and outgoings)?
- (4) Who made the decision that this lease would proceed?
- (5) When was this decision made?
- (6) How much income has been generated to the commission from the centre since it was occupied by the commission?
- (7) How many employees of the Tourism Commission work from the centre?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) 17 July, 1984.

- (2) The lease has not been signed. Lease documents are with the solicitor for redrafting.
- (3) Lease terms are free of all rent and outgoings for the initial 5¼ year term. The lessee is responsible for costs arising from the occupation.
- (4) The Tourism Commission.
- (5) 13 March, 1984.
- (6) \$67 318 as at 31 March, 1985.
- (7) Two.

HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

America's Cup Defence Teams

3307. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the State Housing Commission yet made any final decision regarding its involvement in developing premises for America's Cup Defence challenge teams on land it owns in the Fremantle area?
- (2) If so, will he detail for me the intent of those decisions?
- (3) If not, when does he consider that this decision will be made?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The State Housing Commission's activities related to the America's Cup Defence are aimed primarily at providing accommodation for those persons who qualify for its assistance. However that prime objective does not necessarily preclude consideration being given to providing some accommodation for challenge teams, as projects are assessed. No firm undertakings have been entered into.

3308. *Postponed.*

HOMOSEXUAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

Government Assistance

3309. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Have any Commonwealth Employment Programme grants or other grants from agencies under his control been made to the Homosexual Counselling Service?
- (2) What was the purpose of the grant?
- (3) What was the amount of the grant?

- (4) What was the basis of the grant to this organisation?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) On September 23, 1983 the Homosexual Counselling Service was approved a Wage Pause Job Creation Program grant.
- (2) The purpose of the grant was to fund the employment of 2 Education Officers who would be responsible for researching and compiling an information booklet on homosexuality. This booklet was to be produced for health professionals and for general readership.
- (3) \$30 820.
- (4) The project was assessed against the guidelines of the Wage Pause Program and was recommended on the basis that it was 82% labour intensive, would employ 2 previously unemployed persons and that both positions would be suitable for female employment. Additionally the project was considered to be of long term benefit to smaller sections of the community and that the employees would receive worthwhile work experience.

CREDIT LEGISLATION

Advertising

3310. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Was the Government originally planning for the Minister to be featured in advertisements which have been launched as part of the educational and promotional programme which coincides with the introduction of new Western Australian credit laws?

- (2) If so, why was the decision made?
- (3) Who made the decision that the Minister would not feature in the advertisements?
- (4) Why was that decision made?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) The Minister for Consumer Affairs.
- (4) It was his belief that the Director of the Department and Commissioner of Consumer Affairs was the appropriate person.

FISHERIES: COCKBURN SOUND

Prosecutions

3311. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) How many professional fishermen have been apprehended or prosecuted for breach of regulations concerning fishing in Cockburn Sound over the last two years?
- (2) Would he list for me the details of those prosecutions?
- (3) Does the Department of Fisheries research indicate any change over the last three years in the crab population in Cockburn Sound?
- (4) If so, will he detail for me what change that research indicates?
- (5) Are sunken tangle nets specifically banned for the purpose of catching crabs anywhere in Western Australia?
- (6) If so, where?
- (7) Why are they banned?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Four.
- (2) The four fishermen were convicted under Section 12 of the Fisheries Act for taking fish by means of trawl nets within Cockburn Sound. In addition to the fines imposed the catch and fishing gear involved in each instance was confiscated.
- (3) The Department does not have a research monitoring programme on Cockburn Sound crab abundance.
- (4) See (3).
- (5) Professional fishermen are not banned from using tangle nets in those areas where net fishing is permitted.
- (6) and (7) See (5).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

TAXES AND CHARGES: TAX SUMMIT

Submission: Tabling

1033. Mr HASSELL, to the Deputy Premier:

In the absence of the Premier, and in fairness to the Deputy Premier, I asked the Premier twice in the absence of the Deputy Premier whether he would discuss with the Deputy Premier the tabling of the Government's submission to

EPAC in relation to the taxation summit. I ask—

- (1) Has the matter been considered and is the Government yet in a position to table the State Government's submission to EPAC in relation to the taxation summit?
- (2) Is the Deputy Premier yet in a position to table the results of the tax hot line as previously referred to on a number of occasions?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) I am pleased to be able to tell the Leader of the Opposition that I will be able to let him have some basic information about the tax hot line in the next few days. It will not be tabled today.

I suggest that now the Premier has returned it is an ideal opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to redirect his question to the Premier.

TAXES AND CHARGES: TAX SUMMIT

Submission: Tabling

1034. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier, as he undertook, yet discussed with the Deputy Premier the tabling of the Government's submission arising from the tax hot line to EPAC concerning the tax summit?

Mr Bryce: It did not come from the tax hot line; it was a submission of the Western Australian Government.

Mr HASSELL: Presumably it took the tax hot line into account.

- (2) Is the Premier able to table a copy of the Government's decision, especially in view of the Deputy Premier's earlier statement that the submission would eventually be made public?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) I hope the Leader of the Opposition will understand that I have not yet discussed this with the Deputy Premier. He has been away and I saw him on his return at 10.45 this morning. I do try to respond to the Leader of the Opposition's requests as quickly as I can, but I am not obsessive about it.

Mr Hassell: We have been asking a lot of questions over a long period but have received no answers.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Leader of the Opposition has been asking questions about

the tax hot line but only one about releasing this document.

Mr Hassell: We have been asking questions not just for days but for weeks.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not think it has been for weeks. I will find time to speak with the Deputy Premier and to advise the Leader of the Opposition.

TRADE: EXPORTS

China: Growth

1035. Mr BURKETT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

What has been the growth, if any, in the quantity of WA products being sold to China?

Mr BRYCE replied:

There has been a massive leap in the quantity of Australian products sold to China. The value of exports to China in the first half of 1984-85 from WA was more than double the value for the same period in the previous year. It is expected that the trend will persist through continued growth in sales of both mining and farming products, and a greater contribution from the manufacturing sector.

Figures prepared by the Department of Industrial Development show that our exports to China in the first half of 1984-85 were worth \$91.9 million, a rise of 125 per cent on the value of exports for the previous year. A big factor in this increase is the recovery of our sales of wheat and other food products. In fact, our wheat represented 47 per cent of total Australian wheat sales to China in that period.

Sales of minerals were also strong, increasing in value by 8 per cent over the previous year. The potential for growth in this sector is enormous, especially with the continued progress in negotiations on a China-Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. joint venture in the rich Channar mine near Paraburdoo.

MINERALS: DIAMONDS

Dispute: Mr Graham Corh

1036. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that prior to 29 March, during a heated period of the Argyle dispute, Mr Graham Corh, an Australian

Workers Union organiser, proposed to fly to Perth to present a petition to the Trades and Labor Council asking for the lifting of the TWU picket line?

- (2) Is he further aware that TWU picketers at Argyle threatened that a bomb would be placed on any aircraft on which Mr Corh tried to fly to Perth?
- (3) Is he aware that the bomb threat was taken sufficiently seriously by the company and others at Argyle that Mr Corh was flown to Perth on the company's private jet on 29 March to avoid his using a regular aircraft?
- (4) Does he consider this to be the type of "non-confrontationist" industrial relations of which he is such an advocate?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (4) I do not have any knowledge of those matters to which the Leader of the Opposition referred and I guess he has only recently gained a knowledge of them, which would explain why he has not previously referred to them.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the Government's industrial relations attitude. We do not think that even the Leader of the Opposition himself denies that the Opposition adopts a confrontationist industrial relations policy.

I do not think even he can deny that in general terms the industrial relations policy of the Opposition is a policy determined to confront the union movement.

Mr Hassell: I do deny it.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Leader of the Opposition may deny it with words, but everything the Opposition does is determined to incite, to stir up, and to confront the labour movement in this State. If the Leader of the Opposition denies that, he cannot in the same sentence or in the same time period support, as he appears to be doing, the actions of Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen. The Premier of Queensland says publicly that it is time to confront the unions, and the Leader of the Opposition in this State supports the Premier of Queensland in that stance. The Leader of the Opposition cannot support the Premier of Queensland and then say that his Opposition party does not have a confrontationist policy, because the

leader of the Queensland Government has the most confrontationist industrial relations policy in the land, and the Leader of the Opposition supports the Queensland Premier. It is quite legitimate for the public to ask how it is that the Leader of the Opposition can say he does not have a confrontationist policy but does support the Premier of Queensland, because the Premier of Queensland says publicly that his Government wants to confront the unions. So how are we to believe the Leader of the Opposition when he says that he does not want to confront the unions, when in the same breath he says he supports the Queensland Premier, who does want to confront the unions?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: COUNCILLORS

Citizenship

1037. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that there are several candidates standing for election at the forthcoming local government elections who are not Australian citizens? I am aware of several in my own electorate.
- (2) Is he aware that there are also, in at least one instance, candidates standing for election as mayor who are not Australian citizens?
- (3) Is it correct that this member's ineligibility will ensure that the mayoral election will be declared null and void, if challenged, whatever its result?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister cannot be expected to respond to that last question.

Mr MacKINNON: To continue—

- (4) If not, what is the position where an ineligible candidate is included on the ballot paper, and he—
 - (a) is elected; or
 - (b) his preferences ensure the election of another candidate; or
 - (c) he fails to be elected or to influence the final election outcome?

I might add that there is great concern among not only the council candidates but also the members of the community that because of this ineligibility of the person involved, we will go through the whole election procedure only to have

the result set aside by some means because of the ineligibility of the candidate, and then have to go through the same procedure at the expense of the ratepayers. I seek the Minister's guidance on this matter of concern.

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No. Under section 150 of the Local Government Act a Court of Disputed Returns can declare a person elected in preference to the person declared elected or it can declare the election invalid.
- (4) (a) Refer to answer to question 3200 (6) provided on Wednesday, 17 April 1985;
- (b) and (c) the provisions of section 150 of the Local Government Act provide for the outcome of an election to be tested in a Court of Disputed Returns.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY: RESEARCH STATION

Kimberley

1038. Mr BRIDGE, to the Deputy Premier:

Is it correct that the State Government has failed to retain the Kimberley Research Station?

Mr BRYCE replied:

No. While it is true that the CSIRO is withdrawing from the Kimberley Research Station, the State Government is presently considering an offer from the Federal Government to take over the station.

The offer is being made at no cost to the State and subject to the removal of some of the non-essential facilities at the station—facilities such as the machinery shed and grain drying shed. Those facilities are already available at the Department of Agriculture research station nearby.

The Federal Government also wants to retain the use of two houses and will continue to do some cooperative work with the Department of Agriculture.

If the State accepts the offer, it will get a fully-fledged operating research station which includes about seven houses and a single workers' quarters.

The State Government is committed to the development of the agricultural and pastoral industries in the north, and has a substantial research presence in Kununurra and Derby as well as the Ord River Station and the Fox River Station which are providing exciting breakthroughs in these industries.

In addition, the co-operative work between the CSIRO and the Department of Agriculture on Leucaena-Pangola pastures has the potential to double the number of cattle turned off in the Kimberley.

Other work being carried on highlights the potential for tropical horticultural crops such as mangoes, bananas, and out of season cucurbits—rock melon, water melon, zucchini, cucumber—and egg plant.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY: ASSEMBLY WHIP

Secretary

1039. Mr THOMPSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the member for Helena have an electorate secretary or clerk typist paid by the Government operating out of his Midland office?
- (2) Is the Government Whip provided with a secretary operating out of his office in Parliament House?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), when was the position created, and on what grounds does the Premier justify the increased cost to the taxpayers, bearing in mind that never before have Whips in this Parliament been provided with secretaries?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (3) I prepared an answer to this question, and I think a letter has already been posted to the member. I do not have the answer with me now, but to the best of my recollection—and it is only a recollection—the matter was referred to the Public Service Board, which carried out an investigation and made a recommendation to the Government.

The details in answer to each of the parts of the question are contained in the letter that I think has been mailed to the member either yesterday or today—perhaps even the day before yesterday.

When the member raised this matter some time ago, I indicated that I would advise him of the answer. That has been done in the past few days.

COMMUNITY SERVICES: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Task Force: Submissions

1040. Mrs BEGGS, to the Minister for Community Services:

How can people make submissions to the domestic violence task force?

Mr WILSON replied:

People wanting to make submissions can write to the executive officer of the domestic violence task force, care of the Women's Interest Division, 197 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

I urge people to take part in the inquiry into domestic violence in Western Australia. The inquiry is a first for WA and covers married and *de facto* couples, either living together or separately.

The inquiry wants to hear from victims because it will help the task force work out the most effective ways of dealing with the problem. For too long it has been an issue hidden behind closed doors.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY: LEASES

Kimberley

1041. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Premier:

Because of the Premier's public statement on 11 April and subsequent statements committing \$20 million of the taxpayers' money to the purchase and rejuvenation of Kimberley pastoral leases, and because of the obvious conflict when the Minister for Lands and Surveys said, on 16 and 17 April, "The Government has not determined anything yet", when he was speaking about the lease purchases, will the Premier now make all papers relating to the purchase available to all members of Parliament and to the Press to ensure that contradictory statements from the Government cease and that a large amount of taxpayers' funds is properly expended?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

I am not sure whether the member for Vasse really understands the situation.

He seems to be of the impression that the Minister for Lands and Surveys, prior to any arrangement to purchase or to sell leases, has to accord consideration to the request that might flow from the agreement to grant a transfer. Now, if the member understands that to be the situation, he is wrong, and that might explain why he seems to think that the Minister for Lands and Surveys must agree to a transfer and, in this case, obviously agreed to a transfer, of leases before an agreement to sell or purchase is made.

If members understand that contradiction, they will see why the Minister for Lands and Surveys was perfectly right in saying that there has been no transfer of lease.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The member for Vasse was present when I told people what we were intending about the settling date. I was not aware of the exact details. Now, I understand the settling date is 28 April.

Mr Blaikie: I think your information might be better than mine.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It might be, too. In any case, I thought the member should understand that any of these sales depends upon the transfer being approved by the Minister. That is a normal commercial practice. If the member wants us to depart from that, we will depart from it.

Mr Blaikie: John Horgan said it in Korea. He made a Press statement.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Mr Emanuel said there was no indication to the Minister.

Mr Blaikie: Mr Emanuel is not a member of Parliament.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Neither is Mr Horgan. I am having difficulty treating the member for Vasse seriously. It is not easy.

Mr Emanuel said, prior to any approval being given by the Minister, that he was going to sell the properties—that he had a buyer, and that a sale would occur. Now, he had not been told by the Minister that there would be an approved transfer of lease, and that is what I am trying to point out to the member. Perhaps he misunderstands his impression of the contradiction.

The general question raised by the member for Vasse is an important one to be addressed by this Parliament. It relates to the exciting action taken by the Government to restructure the pastoral industry with a policy and a set of objectives that have not been applied to the industry previously in more than a century of its operations.

The member for Vasse was at the Primary Industry Association meeting in Derby, and he must have been aware of the general concurrence and support that was accorded the Government's plans to restructure the industry. We are intending, regardless of the niggardly opposition by the Opposition, to proceed to restructure the industry, to ensure that it becomes more viable and more profitable. We are doing so after years of neglect by conservative Governments which have taken the constituency for granted and which, at the next election, will pay for that action.

WATER RESOURCES: DAM

Harris River: Review

1042 **Mr D. L. SMITH,** to the Minister for Water Resources:

Is it correct that there will be a further review of the Harris River Dam project?

Mr TONKIN replied:

There is no suggestion that another review would be done on the Harris River Dam project. The review just completed by the policy secretariat of the Department of Premier and Cabinet is the only comprehensive study on the project. I now have the report from that review and expect I will soon be able to put it before Cabinet for consideration.

Claims by the MLC for Lower Central Province, Sandy Lewis, that there are suggestions of another review, show how far behind the times he is. Mr Lewis says he finds these suggestions worrying but I think the people of Collie should be worried that Mr Lewis has not kept himself fully informed on the matter. If he had, he would have read after my visit to Collie that I was optimistic that the review being done then would favour the dam.

I made absolutely no suggestion that any further review would be necessary.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Two-airline System

1043. Mr LAURANCE to the Minister for Transport:

The Minister will be aware from answers that he has provided in the last day or so that the Commissioner of Transport has, in recent days, written to the two airlines servicing the north of the State expressing deep concern about the future services to such intermediate ports as Learmonth. I am also deeply concerned about the future level of jet services to the port of Learmonth and I ask—

- (1) Will he admit that the two-airline system is currently working in an unfair way in that one airline is required to service intermediate ports on its way to or from the Pilbara ports that are open to competition while the other airline is able to advertise direct flights, which would appear to be more attractive, and therefore take some of the custom away from the other airline, thus putting greater pressure on smaller ports such as Learmonth?
- (2) What does he intend to do about the situation?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) I have not yet had a full report from the commissioner on this particular matter. The responsibility is clearly his: I have no doubt he will discharge it in the competent way he has discharged all of these matters to date.

Let me make it clear that the Government does not have a two-airline policy. This Government has a policy of progressively deregulating air services where appropriate. That is something the previous Government was not able to achieve, despite protestations.

Mr Rushton: Cut it out!

Mr GRILL: The member did not achieve it. It is something we have done, apparently in a way that does not please the member's colleague from Gascoyne. That is why he is being critical at the moment. If the member would pipe down instead of trying to claim credit for every initiative that is brought to fruition by this Government he might learn something.

It is appropriate that the commissioner should express concern about what he sees as a threat to the airline services to smaller ports including Learmonth. If that is his concern, I would probably share it. A few weeks ago he made some remarks to me along those lines and no doubt he has a report in the pipeline.

We do not have a two-airline system; we have a system of deregulating air transport services where we can. The last measure we took in that respect was in relation to the Rottne services where Skywest had a single service operating. We have now gone ahead and allowed competition on that particular route. We will allow competition where it is appropriate. We will monitor the situation in respect of Learmonth and other smaller ports, but any allegation of unfairness is quite inappropriate.

Airlines of WA, or as it is now called, Ansett WA, had for a long period the uncontested right to operate on a whole range of routes within Western Australia. It discarded some and kept the more profitable for itself and operated as a monopoly. That monopoly has been broken and the Government should be congratulated for that in respect of the three routes on which deregulation has been allowed.

Mr Laurance: There has been a history of one jet service to each port and there is a requirement to maintain that.

Mr GRILL: The history of the operation of Ansett WA is not all glory. Once upon a time it serviced the whole of Western Australia, especially a whole range of airports in the north which it then pulled out of—a lot of them small ports and stations. It simply was not viable for the company to operate, and that is not a criticism. Its history has been to concentrate operations on the profitable routes. It has had a long period of monopoly and I think it has some obligation to the State because of the monopoly that was granted to it for such a long time.

If it is going to pull out of routes on the basis that it means making less money than previously I will be critical. Whether the member for Gascoyne is critical is another matter. He should think very carefully about it before he makes any rash statements.

Mr Laurance: It is the level of services that I am worried about.

Mr GRILL: If that is the member's concern, I share it. We will do everything we can to try to ensure that those other ports do not miss out on a jet service.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Computer Study

1044. Mr TROY, to the Minister for Local Government:

Is it correct that Western Australia's local government computer study may be used in other States and New Zealand?

Mr CARR replied:

Yes. There has been an enthusiastic response to a presentation in Melbourne to Ministers and local government elected leaders from all States and New Zealand.

Several States have expressed a wish for Western Australian representatives to visit them to conduct seminars for councillors and officers. Details are being worked out between the Commonwealth and other States as to the timing and funding of the seminars.

The Western Australian study was conducted by the Government's technology directorate and the Local Government Department, following a suggestion from the Deputy Premier.

It provided local authorities with a blueprint upon which they could assess their computer needs, and was funded by a special grant of \$40 000 from the Federal Local Government Minister, Tom Uren.

It is important that the benefits of the study be made available throughout Australia in the interests of more efficient government.

The response from the rest of Australia is a tremendous compliment to the initiative taken by the State Government and an indication that Western Australian local government and computer information technology are capable of taking a leadership role throughout Australia.

WATER AUTHORITY

Housing Policy

1045. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it the policy of the Water Authority to purchase every Government Employees' Housing Authority house that has been provided by GEHA for staff in country towns to provide future housing?
- (2) If "Yes", will he give the reasons for the change of policy and will it mean a different standard of housing for the staff?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) I suggest the member put the question on notice.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY: KIMBERLEY

Inquiry: Report

1046. Mr BRIDGE, to the Minister for Regional Development and the North West:

Will he give details of the findings of the Kimberley pastoral industry inquiry and the Government's reaction to the report?

Mr GRILL replied:

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

Yes. The inquiry into the operations of 63 pastoral stations in the Kimberley region has recommended fresh policy initiatives on land use, lease restructuring, and land tenure.

The report suggests policies for the State Government and the industry to adopt to try to find a balance between economic viability and environmental stability in the use of pastoral lease lands.

A period of three months has been allowed for public discussion of the report before any Government action on the recommendations.

The previous Government established a Cabinet subcommittee after it was decided that an in-depth review of the industry was urgently needed.

The subcommittee was represented by the portfolios of Regional Development and the North West, Agriculture, and Lands and Surveys.

The Burke Government saw the importance of the inquiry and approved extra funding to conduct a full technical and economic survey into the operations of the pastoral stations.

The report will be posted to all Kimberley pastoralists and will be available to the public in late April from the Kimberley Regional Development Co-ordinator's Office, Kununurra, and from local government offices in the Kimberley district. Copies are also available from the Department of Regional Development and the North West, 14th Floor, 815 Hay Street, Perth.

STOCK: WA LIVESTOCK AND FOOD PTY. LTD.

Establishment

1047. Mr BLAIKIE to the Premier:

My question is related to a report in the magazine *South East Asia Today* attributed to Mr John Horgan, wherein he spoke about the establishment of WA Livestock and Food Pty. Ltd. I ask—

- (1) Was the decision to establish WA Livestock and Food Pty. Ltd. as an incorporated public company made by State Cabinet?
- (2) Who are the directors; when were they appointed; and what is their particular expertise?
- (3) Does Mr Keith Gale have any association, and in what capacity, with WADC, Exim, and WA Livestock and Food Pty. Ltd?
- (4) Have any discussions taken place regarding WA Livestock and Food Pty. Ltd. entering into joint ventures for agricultural marketing with Australian or overseas interests; if so, with whom, and with what result to date?
- (5) Further to question (1), what discussions has the Government had with producers or producer organisations; when, and with what response?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (5) If the member puts the question on the Notice Paper I will obtain a detailed answer.

Mr Blaikie: The question was given to your office.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I understand that that is the case, but it is a very long question and I have not been able to obtain an answer in time. In general terms I assure the member that the WADC is increasingly gaining the support and acceptance of the business community, and WA Exim Corporation, under the stewardship of Mr Brian Easton, a widely acclaimed private sector person, is beginning to make its mark. I assure the member that Exim and WADC are working to expand the opportunities of the private sector.

Mr Blaikie: Does that include Livestock and Food Pty. Ltd.?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I cannot answer the questions that the member for Vasse is asking about that subject, because I do not have the details. In fact, some of the details have been obtained but they have not been checked.

As far as the operations of WA Exim are concerned, we are finding an increasing number of business people, small and large, approaching the Government with a view to seeking assistance through WA Exim in the development of marketing opportunities.

I am sure Opposition members will be pleased to learn that in addition to that, the programme we have mounted in an attempt to deregulate the airline system appears to have considerable promise.

The Chairman of Qantas, Mr Leslie, has telexed me to say that he will be in Perth next Monday to address me and other Ministers and he will be bringing his experts with him because he accepts the difficulties that this State faces in respect of freight and passenger air services.

We have also received some exciting news from Japan. We understand that there has been some change in the Japanese airline policy which may well permit direct flights to Perth. Mr Horgan who has been in Korea with the Minister for Minerals and Energy will be in Japan shortly to discuss with leading airline officials some of the prospective

changes in policy which may effect an advantage to business and commerce in this State.

Mr Blaikie: What about Mr Keith Gale?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That was another part of the question. When I said that the question should be placed on the Notice Paper I did not mean the first part and the last part, but the whole question.

In order that the member for Vasse does not have a bad weekend I would like to assure him that WA Exim and the WADC are proceeding very smoothly and, as I said, business and commerce appear to be accepting and endorsing many of the initiatives that were taken by WA Exim and WADC with increasing enthusiasm. The member for Vasse will accept that that is good for the State, but politically it may be something he would rather see not happen.

The calibre of the people involved in the WADC and in WA Exim is quite outstanding.

Mr Blaikie: Like Barry Waldeck.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Mr Waldeck is an excellent person and he is a successful businessman; John Anderson is a very well-respected and regarded barrister, solicitor, adviser, and former merchant banker; Michael Lewis is a senior partner in Robinson Cox; Tom Lang is the senior partner in Deloitte Haskins and Sells; John Roberts is the head of Multiplex; Jim Horwood, the chief executive of Chamberlain John Deere Pty. Ltd.; Dennis Cullity, the chief executive of WESFI Pty. Ltd. which exports internationally as well as nationally; Bernie Prendiville, who has a long record of contribution to the community both in the sporting field and in business; James McCusker, a leading building society chairman; and David McKinlay who is the chief executive manager of WADC.

I know that very few of those people are Labor Party supporters, but they are expansive enough in their spirit to know that when public service is to be done, they should answer the call and they have contributed very well. That places the Opposition in a difficult position because I know it would like to attack all those men I have mentioned.

The Opposition's most frequent chopping block these days is Mr Horgan. I suppose the Opposition thinks that by attacking Mr Horgan it will gain some advantage. Let me assure it that it does not. By attacking any of those people who do not see their role as being political but rather as being one of public service the Opposition is simply doing itself a disservice.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER

Korean Negotiations

1048. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development:

- (1) Has the Minister for Minerals and Energy—the Minister Assisting the Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development—reported to him from Korea on the progress of negotiations and proposals for an aluminium smelter?
- (2) If so, bearing in mind that negotiations are still taking place, to what extent can he advise the House of the progress of the negotiations?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister assisting me as Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development has rung me and discussed the progress of the negotiations. He remains quietly confident that he will be able to see satisfactory progress made in the negotiations, but he is not so sanguine about the outcome as to be able to predict whether the negotiations will be successful.

There is still a long way to go in the efforts he is making in Korea and I am sure that when he returns he will be in a better position to make a public statement about the progress of negotiations. All I can say is that in the two brief conversations I have had with him by telephone he has told me that the negotiations are progressing satisfactorily.

ABORIGINAL LAND BILL

Defeat

1049. Mr BRIDGE, to the Premier:

Does the editorial in today's *The West Australian* accurately reflect the true position in relation to the Legislative

Council's defeat of the Aboriginal Land Bill?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

There are times when there is a tinge of sadness about the actions and attitudes that some people take and adopt in respect of matters which come before this Parliament. I think *The West Australian's* editorial today sums up the situation which in the pursuit of temporary political advantage has motivated the Opposition in the ignorance of the greater good.

I intend to quote part of the editorial from today's *The West Australian* because I think it is sobering in its meaning and hopefully it will cause some effect upon the Opposition. The first paragraph reads as follows—

One day WA will have to come to terms with Aboriginal land rights. It is a pity that the opportunity to do so now has been lost.

It then refers to the way in which there had been general agreement about the Bill and it continues—

So what happens now? The Liberals might have tossed out the legislation, but the problems it addressed cannot be similarly dismissed. The Burke government made an honest and valiant attempt to grapple with a problem it never needed. Politically it was on a hiding to nothing, yet it persisted and won over vital areas of interest in trying to ensure that the needs of WA's Aborigines could be met without needless encroachment on the well-being of others.

The final paragraph reads as follows—

The Liberals have often invoked the principle of equality in opposing the entire concept of land rights, but they showed no compunction about using their numbers in the electorally unequal upper House to defeat the legislation. Some people remain more equal than others.

I understand that in politics people do adopt positions from which they find it hard to extricate themselves.

Mr Hassell: You got yourself into that situation in regard to land rights by making wild promises.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I can understand that the Leader of the Opposition in particular and the Opposition in general adopted an attitude towards this question that was based on their perception of what might have been included in legislation that the Government was to introduce. Having adopted that position the Opposition generally, and the Leader of the Opposition in particular, found it extremely difficult to vary its stance for political reasons. The Government is prepared to say to the Opposition, "If you sit down with the Government and consider ways in which the legislation might be amended to reflect some of the concerns—"

Mr Hassell: There is no room for amending that legislation because it is based on wrong principles and it is racist.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If the Opposition will sit down with the Government—and I am perfectly prepared to spend time with the Leader of the Opposition to consider the legislation and areas in which amendment might be thought desirable by the Opposition—perhaps we can come back and reintroduce legislation in the next session that will be accepted by the Legislative Council. If the Opposition is not prepared to accept that offer the Government will not be reintroducing the legislation. There is absolutely no prospect of its passing the upper House with the present Opposition attitude. But if the Opposition is genuine and sincere, before the Federal Government gets down to legislating itself, let the Government and Opposition in this State sit down and work out the problem areas, talk to the interested groups ourselves, and frame legislation that will overcome some of the shortcomings the Leader of the Opposition saw in the Bill. We can do that before the Federal Government legislates and bring before this Parliament legislation that will be acceptable to all sides.

If the Leader of the Opposition is not broad enough in spirit to at least accommodate that request he cannot expect the Government to take seriously anything but the political colour of the Opposition in the actions it takes and the attitudes he adopts. If the Opposition is prepared to address the Bill, we will sit down with

the Opposition, go through it clause by clause, and offer the Opposition the opportunity of working with us to accommodate its concerns. I simply repeat the final paragraph of this editorial which I believe is worthy of repetition—

The Liberals have often invoked the principle of equality in opposing the entire concept of land rights, but they showed no compunction about using their numbers in the electorally unequal Upper House to defeat the legislation. Some people remain more equal than others.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: FRANCHISE

Advertising

1050. Mr TRETHOWAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has the Minister seen an article in tonight's edition of the *Daily News*, under the heading "Adults urged to use votes"?
- (2) Is it correct that the Government proposes to spend \$30 000 advising people to vote?
- (3) If so, why did the Minister spend only five per cent of that amount advising of the changes to the local government electoral laws in regard to—
 - (a) the need for commercial occupiers to re-enrol in the forthcoming elections; and
 - (b) the need to advise intending candidates of the requirement that candidates in the forthcoming elections be Australian citizens?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the confusion that has occurred because of lack of sufficient advertising in relation to the third point?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) I saw the article in the *Daily News*.
- (2) It is true that the Government will spend \$30 000 on an advertising campaign principally during the last week prior to the local government elections in May.

- (3) and (4) That campaign will be aimed at two things: First, to inform people throughout the length and breadth of this State who have now become eligible to vote in local government elections that, in fact, they are so eligible.

It has, of course, been my view for some time that one of the reasons that the turnout for local government elections has been so low, apart from the fact of people not being on the roll, was that many people were entitled to be on the roll but were not aware of the fact.

The campaign will be seeking to tell people throughout the State that every person on the State and Commonwealth roll is placed automatically on the local government roll for his or her place of residence.

The second part of the campaign will be aimed at encouraging people to take an interest in community affairs and to turn out to support candidates of their choice by voting in the election.

The Government placed advertisements in newspapers some time back when nominations were in the offing and enrolments being taken for the occupier provisions of the roll. Advertisements were placed to encourage people to enrol.

The reason money is being spent on this occasion is related principally to the fact that a much larger number of people is involved. Hundreds of thousands of people who have not been on the roll previously, or eligible previously, are now eligible, on the roll, and entitled to vote.

The sum of \$30 000 is a small contribution towards informing people of their rights. The issue of informing people of their right to vote and encouraging them to take an interest in these matters is an issue of such importance that it is worth far more than an allocation \$30 000. I regret that the Government has not been able to allocate more money for this purpose.