

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 23 August 1984

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

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Chairman and Deputy Chairman: Appointment

THE SPEAKER: I wish to announce that the member for Kalgoorlie (Mr I. F. Taylor) has been elected Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, and that the member for Albany (Mr Watt) has been elected Deputy Chairman.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN AMENDMENT BILL

Select Committee: Extension of Time

On motion by Mr Tonkin (Leader of the House), the time for submitting the report of the Select Committee was extended to 11 October 1984.

FIRES: BUSHFIRES

Select Committee: Extension of Time

On motion by Mr Bateman, the time for submitting the report of the Select Committee was extended to 11 October 1984.

AGRICULTURE: RURAL SECTOR HARDSHIP

Select Committee: Extension of Time

On motion by Mr I. F. Taylor, the time for submitting the report of the Select Committee was extended to 27 September 1984.

ORD RIVER DAM CATCHMENT AREA (STRAYING CATTLE) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR EVANS (Warren—Minister for Agriculture) [10.50 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Ord River Dam Catchment Area (Straying Cattle) Act 1967 was designed to vest in the Crown ownership of cattle found at large within the Ord River regeneration project reserve. Control of cattle numbers within this reserve is an essential part of the pasture regeneration and erosion control programme.

The Act does not refer to the area immediately surrounding Lake Argyle, which is currently protected by a fence built by the Public Works Department.

Because of the potential for pasture degradation and erosion, there is a need to be able to control straying cattle in this fragile lakeside environment. The proposed amendment extends the area covered in the existing schedules to cover the shores of Lake Argyle.

Existing provisions of the Act allow the Minister, from time to time, to dispose of the cattle in a manner which he sees fit. This will enable the Minister to respect the traditional attitudes to ownership and conventions following a muster.

I am satisfied that the amendment as drafted will enable the Public Works Department to effectively control cattle numbers in the sensitive areas immediately adjacent Lake Argyle.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Old.

STOCK (BRANDS AND MOVEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR EVANS (Warren—Minister for Agriculture) [10.52 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Stock (Brands and Movement) Act provides for the registration and use of brands and earmarks for stock, regulates the movement of stock, and provides for incidental purposes.

This proposed amendment Bill seeks to amend the Act so as to—

make the branding of goats compulsory in the south-west land division; and

allow a charge to be made for supplying a printout of all or part of the brands register.

Compulsory branding of goats: Under the provisions of the Act, all cattle, sheep, horses and pigs must be branded. The branding of goats is optional. The intention of the amendment is to ensure that the property of origin of straying goats will be identified and to assist in the prevention of theft. The proposed amendment will also require the branding of feral goats which are kept under permit in the agricultural areas under the provisions of the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act.

Charging for computer printout: Each livestock owner has a registered brand which is applicable only to that person's own livestock. The list of brands, and their details are maintained in a brands register. The brands register is kept in a computerised form to maintain a completely up-to-date record. From time to time requests are received to supply all or part of the brands register in the form of a printout. These requests are met but at considerable expense. It is necessary to

amend the Act to permit a charge to be made to offset these costs.

It is not proposed to make a charge for casual inquiries for information on individual brands.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Old.

CHILD WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL

(No. 2)

Second Reading

MR WILSON (Nollamara—Minister for Youth and Community Services) [10.55 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill before the House is designed to achieve two different objects.

In 1982 the Child Welfare Act was amended to introduce a scheme of community service orders for juveniles. One of the features of those amendments was that in addition to giving the Children's Court power to make community service orders as a penalty, it was also given the power to make a community service order in a case where a child failed to pay a fine. The intention of the amendment was that when a child had no money to pay a fine, instead of being detained in an institution in default of payment of the fine, it became possible for the Children's Court to order the child to do community service as an alternative. The system is now in operation and a number of children have had the opportunity to do community service instead of being locked up in an institution.

One defect in the existing scheme is that it does not apply to court costs or money forfeit to the Crown as a result of a breach of a bond or recognisance. For example, a child might be convicted of trespassing on railway property and fined \$10. If he pleaded guilty he would probably be ordered to pay the costs of \$9. If he failed to pay the \$19 he would be summonsed back to court and could be ordered to do a community service order for the \$10 fine, but would be liable to serve default in an institution for non-payment of the \$9 costs.

The anomaly can be even greater in a defended case. For example, a child who was fined \$50 for shoplifting after a hearing might be ordered to pay \$60 in witness fees. If the child failed to pay, he could be summonsed back to court and ordered to do community service in default of payment of the fine. However, the child would have to serve default in an institution for the \$60 costs. In circumstances such as these where the child may have to serve default for non-payment of costs it is often not worthwhile for the child to do community ser-

vice. As a result the purpose of the legislation is defeated.

The Bill before the House will change this and enable children who have failed to pay costs or other money forfeit to the Crown to do community service. Money may be forfeit because of failure to appear in court when required or for re-offending after release on a good behaviour bond.

The second object of the Bill is to reform the provisions of the Child Welfare Act which restrict the reporting of court proceedings. This is an area in which the legislation has to balance the right of the individual child to privacy against the right of the community to know what occurs in the courts. Recent events have led to dissatisfaction with the existing provisions of the Child Welfare Act among magistrates and journalists.

The Bill repeals the existing provisions. It introduces new provisions which ensure that journalists can report Children's Court proceedings and the result of the proceedings provided that they do not identify the children involved. The restrictions on identification apply to children who are offenders and also to children who are the subject of care applications, witnesses, and victims. In the District Court and Supreme Court the position will be reversed and journalists will be entitled to report all the proceedings and identify the children involved unless the court makes a specific order restricting publication. This continues the existing practices for the superior courts.

A new initiative is a provision which will protect child incest victims and other child victims of sexual offences from being identified in the media. These amendments recognise that just as children appearing in the Children's Court are entitled to privacy, so are child victims of sexual offences.

The law has traditionally recognised the vulnerable position which such children occupy in society and this amendment recognises the defencelessness of child victims.

Details of the proposed amendments follow. Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 provide detailed amendments to the existing legislation to enable the provisions on default for non-payment of fines to be extended to the payment of costs or charges incurred in relation to proceedings or a sum ordered to be paid upon the forfeiture of a recognisance.

Clause 7 repeals section 126 of the Act. The new section 126(1) refers to Children's Court proceedings. It prevents the identification of children who are the offenders. Children in respect of whom the proceedings are taken, such as a child who is alleged to be in need of care and protection or uncontrolled, a child who is a witness, or a child

who is a victim, are similarly protected from identification.

*Legislative Assembly Chamber:
Television Camera*

The SPEAKER: Order! I notice there is a television camera in the gallery. I have not given permission for the camera to be brought in here. This afternoon some speeches may be made and cameras may be present on that occasion. I suggest it be removed.

Debate Resumed

Mr WILSON: The restrictions apply not only in the Children's Court, but in any other court when an appeal from the Children's Court is being heard. This is because it would be quite unsatisfactory if a child who was protected in the Children's Court was discouraged from appealing because of the possibility of being identified in a report of the appeal.

The new section 126(2) permits the publication of proceedings in the Supreme and District Courts and the identification of children involved unless the court, after considering the public interest, makes a specific order preventing the identification of a child who is either an offender or a witness or a victim. The order need not refer to all the children involved in the case but may be limited to one of the children. For example, if two children assault a third child and appear in the District Court, it would be possible for the court to make an order suppressing the name of the victim without preventing the media from identifying the offenders. The powers available to the court in the original hearing will also be available on appeal to another court.

The new section 126(3) will prevent the identification of child victims of offences under chapters 22 and 32, and sections 314 and 315 of the Criminal Code.

Chapter 22 includes a number of different sexual offences against both male and female children, homosexual offences, incest by men and women, detaining girls in brothels, unlawfully procuring abortions, and offences relating to obscene publications and exhibitions.

Chapter 32 refers to rape, indecent assaults on females, and abduction of girls under sixteen.

Sections 314 and 315 deal with indecent assaults.

Clause 9 introduces section 126B to protect children who could not have been identified during court proceedings from being labelled as criminals at a later date. An example will illustrate the type of problem which can arise. At 14 a child might be

convicted of unlawful use of a motor vehicle and ordered to do 35 hours' community service. He might do the community service, rehabilitate himself, and at age 17 win a place in an interstate sporting team. The new clause would protect a child in that situation being identified as a former car thief. It will also protect children being publicly described as wards of the Department for Community Welfare, something which may be true but which occurred through no fault of their own but because of parental absence or neglect. This section has been drafted to ensure that it does not prevent journalists from reporting the results of Children's Court cases so long as the child is not identified.

The proposals have been discussed with the special magistrates in the Children's Court and with representatives of the media and I believe that they provide a fair balance between the public interest and the right of the child to privacy.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Spriggs.

**YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION REPEAL
BILL**

Second Reading

MR WILSON (Nollamara—Minister for Sport and Recreation) [11.06 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Youth, Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee established by the Youth, Sport and Recreation Act 1978, provided a useful change mechanism for the Community Recreation Council's transition to the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation. The existing advisory structure has fulfilled its purpose and the Bill before the House seeks to repeal the Act.

Earlier in its term of office, the Government established separate working parties to examine the areas of sport and recreation. Following extensive consultation with community groups, both working parties recommended that advisory structures more sensitive to the needs of sport and recreation should be created.

As a small Government department, the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation has demonstrated a degree of responsiveness and creativity to community demand that one would hope could be provided by a leisure service agency. However, because of the increasing importance of leisure time and diversity of sport and recreation choices available to the community, it is important that co-ordinated and integrated development be maintained.

I believe at certain points in the decision-making process there needs to be the opportunity for community feeling to be expressed and specifically articulated. For this reason a Sports Council and Recreation Council have been formed and are forwarding policy advice to the Government.

The separation of the advisory responsibilities to different councils has been undertaken as a recognition of the specialised needs of sport and recreation. Sport and recreation have become an increasing responsibility within the State and it is essential for the Government to have an appropriate advisory structure.

Finally, let me acknowledge the conscientious work carried out by all who served on the Youth, Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee and its subcommittees. The committee's contribution to the areas of youth, sport and recreation during the formative years of the department were invaluable. The community and the Government are deeply indebted to them.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bradshaw.

INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR PARKER (Fremantle—Minister for Minerals and Energy) [11.09 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the legislation is to introduce changes affecting appropriation that have been proposed following the review of the Industrial Arbitration Act 1979-1982 by the interim tripartite committee. These amendments relate to the salaries, allowances, and superannuation entitlements of members of the Industrial Commission.

Other amendments to the Industrial Arbitration Act were introduced into the Legislative Council by my colleague, Hon. D. K. Dans.

The interim tripartite committee recommended the following in regard to conditions for members of the Industrial Commission—

conditions of employment for all members of the commission to be the same;

president's salary to continue to be equal to that of a Supreme Court Judge;

provision to be made for commission members to maximise their superannuation benefits after 10 years rather than the current 30 years at age 60; and

the basis of salary and conditions for commission members was a matter for the State Government to determine.

All of the recommendations of the interim tripartite committee have been incorporated into this Bill, except that commission members will maximise their superannuation benefits after 15 years rather than after 10 years as proposed by the interim tripartite committee.

The following is a summary of the provisions of this Bill.

The Bill is to come into operation from the day on which it is assented to by the Governor. The salaries, allowances, and reimbursements of the members of the commission are to be set by Statute, rather than being set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. The chief commissioner's salary, allowances, and reimbursements are to be the same as for a judge of the District Court—other than the chairman of judges.

The senior commissioner shall receive 95 per cent of the salary and 66.67 per cent of the annual expense allowance received by the chief commissioner. The remaining commissioners will receive 90 per cent of the salary and 50 per cent of the annual expense allowance received by the chief commissioner.

The commission is a court of record, having both judicial and arbitral functions. It is as important in this area of the law as in others that the appearance as well as the reality of the tribunal's independence be secured.

This will be done by linking the salaries, allowances, and reimbursements of members of the commission with those applicable to members of the judiciary. The president is already related in salary and allowances to a judge of the Supreme Court. The chief commissioner's salary and allowances will now be fixed at the same rates as a District Court judge.

The present relativities between the chief commissioner's salary and allowances and those of other commissioners will be maintained. As the proposed changes would involve a small reduction in the salary component of the chief commissioner's and other commissioners' emoluments, the Bill contains a provision to avoid that result. All members of the commission will have the same conditions of service.

Superannuation entitlements have been amended to incorporate the recommendation of the interim tripartite committee. The 10-year threshold in principle, recommended by the interim tripartite committee, has, however, been reduced to 15 years. This is done by the duration of employment, for the purposes of

superannuation, being deemed to be 100 per cent of the service from the commencement date of this Bill. Similar provisions have existed in South Australia since 1974.

This will allow for commissioners who have been appointed at age 50, to receive maximum superannuation entitlements at the 65-year retirement age. The current Superannuation and Family Benefits Act effectively discourages persons from outside the Government sector from accepting commissioner positions because of the present unfavourable conditions. This amended provision will remove that disincentive to experienced persons of ability in the private sector from considering appointments to the commission.

The same accelerated superannuation entitlements will apply to commissioners who—

- (i) continue in the employment of the State after retirement; and
- (ii) through death, or invalidity, or physical, or mental incapacity are unable to perform their duties.

The entitlements of the present president of the commission have been preserved for the duration of his occupancy of that position.

The commission is given power to make regulations to—

- (i) establish payment of remuneration, travelling and other allowances for members of the constituent authorities—other than commissioners; and
- (ii) provide for the constituent authorities to approve payment for expenses incurred by appellant, respondent, and witnesses to promotional appeal proceedings.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr MacKinnon (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

RACING RESTRICTION AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

MR PARKER (Fremantle—Minister for Minerals and Energy) [11.15 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR PETER JONES (Narrogin) [11.16 a.m.]: I wish to recap on one or two points made during the debate on this Bill. I think that the Minister has tried, very satisfactorily, to make something out of a very difficult situation. I supported the

changes to this Bill in the Committee stage. I feel that we have kept the administration of racing at arm's length from the Government, and that is where it ought to be. We have also provided an avenue for appeals by country clubs.

However, after amending the Act, I now feel that it is inevitable that we will have to deal with entirely new legislation in relation to racing. I think that is one of the major points that those of us who entered into this debate tried to make. The original Act has been amended and touched up so that it has become umbrella legislation. I feel legislation should be introduced which reflects the changes that have occurred in racing since 1917, when the Racing Restriction Act was first assented to.

I understand that, in the decades following the enactment of that legislation, there was considerable involvement and activity by country racing clubs, in the non-metropolitan areas. The very first race club was formed outside Perth in the Avon Valley. The 1917 legislation which has now been amended twice, does not reflect the situation that exists in 1984 because racing outside the Perth area does not enjoy the same healthy standard that it enjoyed in 1917, and in later decades.

Over the last couple of decades, for example, there has been a revitalisation of racing following the introduction of the TAB, which gave more funds to clubs. However, therein lies one of the major problems. I do not wish to criticise the total amount of funds allocated to racing clubs. However, I feel that the method of distributing funds to various clubs is wrong and whether the Western Australian Turf Club accepts that or not, I do not care. As far as I am concerned, the fat have got fatter because of the method of distributing funds. The method of distributing funds has been carried out at the expense of the country racing clubs in general and, more particularly at the expense of the non-TAB clubs.

The other night the member for Kalgoorlie referred to the Kalgoorlie Racing Club. He said that that club felt it was hard done by when compared with the eastern districts clubs. It is worth placing on the record that the Kalgoorlie Racing Club is included in a group of clubs, which includes racing clubs from Albany, Geraldton, Mt. Barker, and Kalgoorlie. The group receives a percentage of the turnover of the off-course betting revenue. They receive \$450 for each race from the TAB and also receive the normal TAB distribution.

The member for Kalgoorlie compared that group of clubs with clubs that are closer to Perth. However, for the purpose of distribution of funds, that group of clubs which includes Kalgoorlie is

also part of another group of clubs which includes Pinjarra, Bunbury and other clubs. Those clubs also receive \$450 and an additional \$250 when a meeting is held in Perth on the same day. They are considered to be close enough to Perth for their meetings to be affected by a race meeting held in Perth. They receive the extra \$250 because the turnover and other revenue may be affected by the meeting being held in Perth.

Mr I. F. Taylor: I suggest those funds should also be paid to the major regional racing centres because the WATC does not recognise that those clubs provide a service to the racing industry as it recognises clubs such as Albany and Bunbury.

Mr PETER JONES: There are only four: Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Mount Barker. The point I was commenting on was the member for Kalgoorlie's reference to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club's not receiving the additional amount. The member for Kalgoorlie identified his local racing club with the eastern districts clubs. I advise him that it is actually those clubs plus others—for example, Pinjarra—which receive an extra amount, but only on occasions when their meetings clash with metropolitan meetings.

Mr I. F. Taylor: I realise that.

Mr PETER JONES: I do not know whether the situation is right or wrong, but the situation exists. I am supporting the tenor of the member for Kalgoorlie's remarks; that is, that this Bill which has passed the second reading stage and is now in its third reading stage leans towards an old Statute and gives non-metropolitan clubs the entitlement to approach the Minister if they feel they have been aggrieved by the WATC. It does not deal with the problems to which the member for Kalgoorlie and other members referred. Therefore, sooner or later the question of more pressing legislation governing racing will need to be considered.

Mr I. F. Taylor: That is what I am suggesting. If the Turf Club does not meet its responsibilities now, it may in the future.

Mr PETER JONES: The Turf Club does not meet its responsibilities. I am making the point that a Statute which reflects the need for a modern pattern of racing does not necessarily mean putting the Government in the position of running it. It can still remain at arm's length. The major factor that needs to be addressed, and I do not believe that any Government of whatever persuasion can ignore it, is the distribution of funding. It comes back to that.

From the evidence that has been given to me by various racing clubs within my electorate, having

read the Royal Commission report which has been referred to on several occasions during this debate, having discussed the matter with people in my electorate, and lastly, having been present at a meeting with the then Chairman of the Turf Club and the Executive Director, Mr Campbell, and one or two others when this amending legislation was brought before this Parliament, I cannot avoid making the comment that the Turf Club is clearly conveying an impression that it is a remote and arrogant organisation. It is an organisation that is self-perpetuating the interest of those who have risen to the top of the organisation, rather than accepting its responsibilities under the Statute to promote and administer racing in its broader sense throughout the State.

I am clearly dividing the two areas—administration and promotion. At the moment the administration side of racing is very different from that of promoting it.

As it has been mentioned earlier in this debate the racing industry provides a recreational activity for a great number of Western Australians. I admit that my remarks are clearly directed towards the Turf Club side of racing rather than the activities of the West Australian Trotting Association. The reason is that in my electorate the trotting industry is a well-run and efficient organisation. During the summer months, with one exception, meetings are held at night and it is very much a recreational activity which is enjoyed by many people who may normally not be interested in trotting.

Reference was made to various country clubs and the Minister, by way of interjection, referred to a situation which occurred at Port Hedland. I am not familiar with the situation, but I understand it referred to a specific race meeting which was held some years ago. I was aware that the President of Port Hedland Shire, Mr Carter, in his capacity as an administrator of the racing club and not as shire president, indicated in no uncertain terms, the way in which the WATC had treated the Port Hedland Race Club. Following the Minister's interjection I understand Mr Carter was contacted and the Minister will make an approach regarding the correction of whatever comments were made and verifying the position as Mr Carter and his organisation understand it.

Even though the member for Collie indicated in his speech that the racing club in Collie had expressed concern about the WATC he, together with the member for Pilbara, did not enter the debate in the same vein as the member for Kalgoorlie. The member for Kalgoorlie questioned the way in which the racing industry is being promoted and administered.

That is the substance behind the Bill. Even though the Bill provides for an umbrella appeal which the Opposition is supporting, the issue is the way in which racing is being administered. That point is being severely questioned by members on both sides of this House.

While supporting the third reading, I again make the point that there will be a need for two very clear initiatives to come to fruition in the not-too-distant future.

Firstly, there is the need for more modern legislation. I was interested that the member for Kalgoorlie, during the second reading debate and now by way of interjection, agreed to and supported this need. It has been the wish and the hope of a lot of people associated with the industry, and more particularly those who have looked at and come in contact with the legislation, that there be a better legislative framework under which the industry can be administered and controlled.

Secondly, the attitude of the Turf Club must change. It cannot expect to go on being administered in a way which is carefully designed to promote the interests of those owners and trainers who occupy positions as committeemen on the WATC, but who do not have any interest in or understanding of the country racing business, particularly the non-TAB clubs. I know that is a harsh indictment, but it is a fact. I am trying to refer to the Turf Club as a group without singling out any individuals, but the attitude and the decisions of the Turf Club have not won any hearts outside the metropolitan area. Unless the Turf Club changes its attitude and becomes less arrogant in the way in which it addresses the question of racing in the non-metropolitan area it will certainly reap the harvest it deserves. It certainly will not be the harvest it is seeking.

I support the third reading.

MR SPRIGGS (Darling Range) [11.30 a.m.]: I will contribute briefly to the debate to express my disappointment that the Minister did not accept the amendment moved. To some extent we believe that the amendment would have helped in this dispute between the metropolitan Turf Club and the country turf clubs.

The present Act has been in existence since 1917 and few amendments have been made to it since then. Therefore, I am disappointed that the Government did not give consideration in a far broader sense to the problems of distribution of funds as outlined by the previous speaker. The recommendations made by the Baxter report were in line with the conditions prevailing in other States. I am disappointed that this revision has

taken place without any consideration being given to the main cause of the dispute between the Turf Club and the country clubs. This problem has not been addressed in the legislation. The Government of the day often speaks of legislation that should apply on a national basis so that we are in line with other States, yet we are not in line with other States with regard to this legislation. We are a State on its own. We are disadvantaging the country clubs and allowing the metropolitan Turf Club to continue to dominate them.

I very strongly support that part of the Bill which provides an opportunity for appeal to the Minister. In fact, the Minister made great play of the fact that such a provision was not available in previous legislation. However, I am disappointed in the Bill as a whole because I do not believe it has addressed the problems of racing that should have been addressed. It could have made a worthwhile contribution towards preserving country races and the lifestyle that those races provide for people in country towns.

MR CRANE (Moore) [11.32 p.m.]: I wish to add to the comments made with regard to the country racing situation. I believe we have fallen far short of what should have been done in the interests of country people and country racing. The warnings by the member for Narrogin were very real. There is no doubt that racing is dominated by an unrelenting committee which places its emphasis on the metropolitan area. It can be seen how disadvantaged country people are when one considers the membership of the committee. When the TAB Act was introduced in 1960, it was decided that because the Turf Club and the Trotting Association had each agreed to provide £25 000, making a total of £50 000, they could be given disproportionate representation on the committee. As a result the committee was made up of four metropolitan members, two country members, one chairman and a manager of the board. In effect, the majority was six metropolitan people to two country representatives. That would have been all right had the promise of £25 000 from each club eventuated. However, they only paid, I think, about £5 000 each and this sum was later repaid. By default, one can say that the representation of the metropolitan area over the country area is disproportionately heavy. It could be described as a thimble and pea trick to get disproportionate representation. Country people have been thrown to the crocodiles by the attitude being adopted by the, one could almost say, knights of the realm. As a result country racing clubs will suffer.

We recently appointed an Honorary Royal Commission to examine racing and trotting in

Western Australia. This commission was chaired by Hon. N. E. Baxter and some very sound recommendations were made.

It seems sad that we go to the expense of discovering the problems, making recommendations to alleviate those problems, and then proceed to completely ignore them. For many years Parliaments have made this same mistake and we are doing it once more today. I am quite convinced that people who do not remember the mistakes they have made in the past are well on their way to repeating them. Parliaments have a habit of doing this.

This is a sad day for country racing, and country people will rue the day this Bill was passed in its present form. However, when one is in the minority there is not much one can do other than accept the fact that there will be another day; experience will show that the warnings we have given today are very real warnings.

A very serious change in attitude will be needed at the top. Those country clubs which have been convinced, or appear to have been convinced, that all will be well will very shortly realise that they have made a mistake. They have been coerced into believing that they live in a world where people care for them. However, it will soon become apparent that this is not so. I know that it is possible to persuade people to agree with a certain point of view, if they are wined and dined, all sorts of promises are made to them, and they are made to feel important. People can be very gullible and I believe there are a number of gullible people who by such persuasion will have certain things foisted upon them. I am sad that it has been allowed to happen. I am concerned for country people and country racing. I am sure it will not be long before proper legislation will have to be brought to this place to deal with this situation which otherwise will get further out of hand.

With those remarks on behalf of country clubs and country people, I reluctantly support the third reading.

MR READ (Mandurah) [11.38 p.m.]: I have had a personal involvement in trotting and although I am not aware of the machinations of the racing industry, I am very much aware of what goes on in the trotting industry. The opportunity is there for country racing clubs to follow the same direction as country trotting associations. Agreement has been reached between the WATA and the WA Country Trotting Association on the progress that should be made towards the betterment of both country and city trotting. They have reached agreement that the number of meetings in the city should be increased from 73 to 90. It is

generally recognised that this will increase the TAB turnover by \$4 million a year. There will be no reduction in the number of country trotting meetings and country clubs will not suffer in this regard. The meetings will take place in the city on Mondays and Fridays and in the country on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It is possible that Richmond Raceway will take the Monday meetings and this will involve less cost to that club in stakes, but presumably will lead to the same turnover.

The country clubs are wholeheartedly behind this Bill and I quote from a letter sent to the Executive Director of the Department of Administrative Services by Mr John F. Higgins, President of the WA Country Trotting Association.

There have been several interjections from that side of the House. Perhaps I may be allowed to say something here. This letter reads—

On behalf of the West Australian Country Trotting Association of which I am President I am writing to advise you that the association of twenty one country clubs has agreed unanimously that the Racing Restriction Act should be amended to abolish the present restriction on the number of Metropolitan Trotting Meetings.

My main comment is that there is some protection for the country clubs in the amendments moved. Country racing can follow the same lines as country trotting. Many fears will be allayed by backing this line.

I support the Bill.

MR PARKER (Fremantle—Minister for Minerals and Energy) [11.42 a.m.]: I thank members for their support of the Bill. A number of comments have been made concerning the administration of the Western Australian Turf Club and the racing industry. I have some views about them, but since the matter is not within my portfolio I shall ensure that the Minister responsible, Mr Dans, is made aware of the views of members concerning these questions. During my administration of this portfolio, on a number of occasions discussions were held with the Western Australian Turf Club about matters of concern to country clubs. As I mentioned before, it was as a result of some pressure from the Government last year and myself as Minister that the rationalisation programme was dropped by that club.

I do not want to comment in detail on the various points; it is really a matter for people to take up with my colleague. I believe that the Turf Club and its current committee, and in particular its current chairman, have recognised some of the problems of the past and are attempting to redress

them. Some of the discussions which have taken place during the course of the last couple of months are substantially moves towards improving the situation.

Members opposite have made suggestions about how new legislation might be formulated, and fears were expressed by the member for Narrogin who supports the fact the Government should not become involved in racing. If his party were in Government it would not like to be directly involved in racing. Many of the comments he has made, and those which have been made not only in the third reading debate but also during the second reading and Committee stages by some of his colleagues, suggest the truth of the point I made during my own response, which is that we do not want the Government to be involved in the administration of racing. At the same time everyone has some idea about what Government should do about racing. This has been proved by the contributions which have been made this morning.

I must say to the member for Moore, who apparently did not hear the earlier stages of the debate and the statement I made and the acknowledgment by the member for Narrogin and others, that while this Bill may not do what some people want it to do, in the main it seeks to redress the complaints of country clubs against disadvantageous decisions made by the Turf Club and the Trotting Association, which affect them adversely.

This Bill represents a protection for those clubs. While they might want more done in terms of the Bill itself, it is aimed at the country clubs. It provides them for the first time with some protection against those sorts of decisions. That has been acknowledged by the member for Narrogin and others. While there may be all sorts of other things one could do and other legislation which could be introduced, the protection introduced in this Bill is introduced for the first time and is a major step forward in terms of country clubs vis-a-vis the Turf Club and the Trotting Association.

Mr Peter Jones: Appeal is allowed to the Minister only if the club has been prejudiced by an alteration in racing days, dates and so on. I am now advised that that can mean, if a club feels it is prejudiced by a decision of the Turf Club in relation to distribution of finance, it can appeal to the Minister. If it is prejudiced it can extend that far. I welcome that. I am not talking about TAB distribution, because that is not necessarily there, but if the Turf Club withholds funds for administration cost, and if that decision prejudices an individual club, the club can now appeal to the Minister.

The SPEAKER: That was a fairly long interjection.

Mr Peter Jones: This is my last chance to get it on the record.

Mr PARKER: I cannot recall the specific wording to which the member refers.

Mr Peter Jones: I will not interject again.

Mr PARKER: It is not something with which I have been recently familiar. I will certainly draw the member's comments to the attention of my colleague.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

Resumed from 21 August. The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mrs Henderson) in the Chair; Mr Parker (Minister for Minerals and Energy) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3: Section 46C inserted—

Progress was reported after the clause had been partly considered.

Mr PETER JONES: I have spoken once on this clause. Since the last address I have followed up some of the comments made by the Minister in relation to the attitude of industry. He will correct me if I am wrong, but I believe he referred to the measure having the broad support of industry. I am not questioning that. In fact, on the information given to me, both previously and that which I have confirmed, the industry most certainly supports—especially in the terms mentioned by the Opposition—the question of safety.

The points I made when we discussed the matter originally referred to the need for safety. The Minister indicated that he would be seeking to make some publicity out of the fact the Opposition was opposed to these measures, which meant we were opposed to the safety requirements. I am sure he did not mean that, because that matter was dealt with by me at some length. I have been able to confirm the point I made before.

For example, in bodies such as the Road Transport Association, which met with the Minister last Friday, two issues mainly gave it concern. The association sees the Mines Department, as I certainly do, as the regulatory body involved—because that is properly its function under the Act itself—and also supports the substance of the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act regulations.

The Mines Department has a regulatory role in this matter specifically relating to safety, and carrying that further, to the transport of prescribed goods in a safe and efficient manner.

The association certainly does not see, and neither do I, the Mines Department as a department having a function which empowers it to go beyond its normal regulatory role. In other words, it is not in the business of building an empire relating to whatever activity. In this specific instance I am assured that industry does not see the Mines Department as being a licensing authority *per se*. It certainly is the function of the Mines Department, and this particular branch within that department, to ensure safety—again that is not questioned.

The second of the two points to which I am referring is one relating to documentation. I am advised that the Minister accepted the argument of the Road Transport Association regarding the need for documentation to be done in a specific manner. Quite frankly, had it been put to me the same way, I certainly would have agreed as well, because there is an onus on the consignee to provide complete and proper documentation in whatever is going to be the prescribed format. The onus now clearly flows the way it should. The responsibility should not be on a truck driver, it should be the responsibility of the consignee to get it.

The Minister's view differed from that of his advisers and I support what the Minister has done. The traffic authority has very strongly supported what is being done in that regard. The reason I have dwelt on that point is that it serves as an example of what I was indicating earlier: Departments and departmental officers and branches within those departments have ideas as to the way they want everything to be done, particularly when they move into an area where there has not been an adequate regulatory situation in the past. This is one area where the regulations relating to the activities are of comparatively recent duration. It is a natural instinct to cover every possibility. In fact, it is the reverse way of doing things in the sense that if one legislates by subordinate legislation—that is, regulations—to prevent certain things happening, it is presumed that other things not referred to may happen, rather than the other way around, where one provides regulations to say one cannot do this or that or something else and then, amongst that, one feeds in some things that can occur. I am very pleased and support what the Minister has done in that he has overturned—or has differed from, might be a gentler way of putting it—what his department might have liked and might have required in that regard.

The Minister referred to an industry group the name of which I cannot remember, but they are the chemical manufacturers.

Mr Parker: The Australian Chemical Industry Council.

Mr PETER JONES: My understanding is that they want the tightest regulations they can get and the tightest situation possible in this regard because basically they are not always the transporters. They are the producers—the group that I referred to earlier—who produce the products that may well be classified as prescribed goods under these regulations. Naturally, they want the maximum amount of protection possible so no matter who carts their goods they are in a situation where the responsibility does not come back to them.

The regulations we dealt with last year provide, for example, for things to be labelled and for phone numbers and safety precautions to be put on the packages, cans, and so on; but when one gets to the next stage quite naturally that industry group has confirmed to me that they do not want an easy situation at all. They want the maximum protection because the cost and inconvenience is going to be borne by someone else, and they want to be protected in the maximum way that they can.

My last point is one I raised earlier. In the last two days I have floated within the industry the question of self-regulation and again I have received the same message that I gave on Tuesday. If it is going to be self-regulating, why in the name of fortune is it drafted in this way, so that it provides for the chief inspectors to license drivers of vehicles? Is it to be a licensing activity or not? I am aware that there is going to be a code. The code as the chief inspector indicated, is the one that has been approved. From what I understand, it is a very suitable and appropriate code that applies the various activities dependent upon the load being carried. It is not necessary for this body to be a licensing authority to do that. Again, I raise the point that provided a mechanism or a situation prevails where a person who is in control and charged with the driving of a vehicle conveying dangerous or prescribed goods, has an endorsement on his driver's licence or some recognition that he has been approved, and is knowledgeable in the code and the safety precautions that have been approved by the chief inspector, why do we need to go to this additional trouble?

Mr COURT: In the first part of the clause it says—

Regulations may provide for the licensing by the Chief Inspector of the drivers of vehicles, or vehicles of a prescribed kind.

This clause gives the chief inspector the licensing power. I heard the comments made by the Minister in connection with self-regulation.

It is commendable that the people in the industry want to get together to have self-regulation and to control the transport of these goods. As the previous speaker said, if we are going to have self-regulation, we do not require the licensing authority. My concern is that we will start off with self-regulation, which will work well with the large transporters of the prescribed goods. The Minister mentioned the Australian Chemical Industry Council; I am sure self-regulation will work for the people who are operating in that council and for the major transporters of the goods initially from the depots. But it comes further down the scale with the area I mentioned during the second reading debate: There are thousands and thousands of people who transport these goods in their normal day-to-day business in quantities above the prescribed levels in their business activities. What will happen before long is that the chief inspector will insist that all these people must have this special licence which he issues to carry such goods.

Overnight it becomes a bureaucratic nightmare. My main area of concern is that it will start off in a self-regulatory fashion, but it will not be long before the pressure comes on and all the people who are involved in transporting these goods in a small way—they might cart them only once or twice a year—will have to go through this new licensing operation which is being set up.

I fully support the industry in its endeavours towards self-regulation and its desire to upgrade the standard of the carriage of these goods. We must look at upgrading the safety standards for all levels of transportation whether the goods carried are those which are covered by the Act and classified as "prescribed goods" or whether they are just normal goods. Much can be done to improve the standards of loading and carting goods in the transport industry.

I am concerned that, before long, the chief inspector will use the powers in this legislation and an elaborate licensing system will be established.

In his reply to the second reading debate, or by way of interjection, the Minister indicated that the people involved, such as those in the farming community who might take half a truckload of chemicals back to their farms, are the ones who have to be taught better standards. I disagree with that, because one tends to find that farmers who carry

their own chemicals are very experienced in transporting them.

Mr Parker: It is not just a question of their standards; it is also a matter of whether they are aware of the emergency procedures which need to be followed in the event of an accident.

Mr COURT: They would be very aware of the emergency procedures, because not only do they have to cart the goods, but also they use the goods on a day-to-day basis on their farm properties; so they would tend to have a far better knowledge of what they are carting than the trucking people for whom the licensing authority is being established. That is my concern with this clause.

The clause does not relate only to the agricultural people, but also it affects all the other thousands of people involved in their various operations out at Osborne Park and Kewdale etc. If we went to the letter of this legislation, it would not be very long before all the staff members of those organisations carting these goods would have to go to the chief inspector to obtain special licences.

Mr OLD: I should like to clarify a couple of points with the Minister. One of the problems drawn to my attention relates to the minimum amount of these dangerous goods which may be carried. I understand it is the intention of the Government, by way of regulation, to set the minimum amount of petroleum products at 10 drums. If that is the case, that should satisfy the requirements of the users of petroleum products.

One point that has been drawn to my attention is whether or not distillate is included in the definition of "dangerous goods". I should like the Minister to clarify that point, because if it is in fact included, it will probably have a deleterious effect on the operations of people who use trailer tankers. I refer here to bulldozing contractors and, indeed, a number of people involved in large farming operations who find it necessary to pull trailer tankers between farms in their various operations.

Another point which causes concern to the petroleum products distributors is whether all dangerous goods are to be lumped in together. The other night I heard the Minister refer to self-regulation and since then I have spoken with one of the officers of the distributors' association. He assures me that the association is organising seminars which will take place over a period of three days. Each distributor within the area prescribed for a particular seminar will be required to attend and contribute financially to it. At the end of the seminar he will be considered to be qualified to receive a licence from the Mines Department. Therefore, everyone seems to be happy about

that and, as the Minister said, it will cause the minimum of inconvenience.

However, concern exists as to whether all dangerous goods will be lumped in together. For instance, will the distributor of petroleum products be required to have a licence to cart explosives or chemicals? Conversely, an agent for a chemical company should not need to have a licence enabling him to carry explosives and petroleum products.

It would be helpful if the Minister could clarify those points. Apart from that aspect, the petroleum distributors' association is happy to proceed with the programme.

I do not know whether I am in order bringing up this point at this stage, but it is pertinent to the clause: I refer to some of the emotive issues which have been stirred up over the carriage of chemicals. As has been pointed out by the member for Nedlands, when farmers bring produce to Perth, they like to backload some goods. In the main their knowledge of chemicals is rather good. If they are barred from carting chemicals unless they attend some sort of seminar, it will cause a great deal of confusion. Therefore, regulations should be laid down as to the minimum quantities of chemicals of different categories which may be carried. There are many categories of chemicals.

I cite an incident which occurred last year when some chemicals were spilt near a school. Photographs appeared in the newspapers and great play was made of the fact that this was a dangerous situation. The people who cleaned up the chemicals wore protective clothing, the road was closed, and children were sent home from school. The chemical involved was simazine which in fact is benign. I understand it has no bad characteristics and the only way in which it can be lethal is if one has enough to drown in. That is about its only vice.

Many questions need to be answered and I am sure the Minister is aware of the necessity to categorise chemicals as to their levels of toxicity and the likelihood of their causing health problems. He would also be aware of the health aspects and the necessity to segregate dangerous goods into three or more different categories in respect of applying for a licence from the Mines Department.

Mr SPRIGGS: I am concerned about the licensing aspect of the legislation. The Minister went to some lengths to explain the self-regulatory nature of the industry. However, he did not outline clearly who would be responsible for carrying out the examination. I share the view of all members of the House and, I am sure, of most of the public, that we must have a reasonable amount of regu-

lation and a great deal of knowledge in respect of the carting of dangerous goods.

For many years I was involved in the cartage of fuel. There is no doubt that because more and more people are involved with more and more road transport of fuel in a wider area, contractors need a very good knowledge of what is involved and need to be trained in some areas of their operations.

I am concerned that the legislation is so vague. It seems to leave a great deal to the discretion of the Chief Inspector of Explosives and Dangerous Goods.

As the member for Nedlands said, it is clear that practically everyone involved in the industry could have restrictions placed on him. History does not show us that it is necessary to have so many demands and restrictions placed on the people in the industry.

I accept that the industry has a lot of self-regulation and that every person who handles or carts fuel should be aware of the problems involved, especially problems such as spillage and fire. The code branded on the articles involved and indeed on the vehicles used for transporting them should be fully understood by the people working in the industry, and these people should have a knowledge of what to do in emergencies such as a spillage. It concerns me that the legislation does not spell out clearly what is intended.

Perhaps the present licence could have a further article added to it indicating that the licence-holder is entitled to cart certain other goods and is familiar with the product involved.

The Minister has said that the industry has self-regulation and that it can dictate the terms of what a person will need to know about the various products he is handling. However, the Minister has not explained to whom the operators should go to obtain a certificate of knowledge. The Bill vaguely indicates that the chief inspector will be involved.

It seems to me that a fuel company should be the body to dictate the requirements. A fuel company would ensure that only a qualified person dispensed the fuel from its terminal into his tanks for delivery. It would want to ensure that this person had a knowledge of the product and the dangers associated with it. That is the way the legislation should operate in the interests of the safety of the public.

It is clear to most of us that a lot of people who hold a driver's licence might have the ability to learn all the necessary rules to obtain that licence,

but in a practical sense are not capable sometimes of driving a vehicle properly.

It is usual that people involved in the fuel industry are well aware of the responsibility and knowledge required by that code and are especially aware of the dangers involved in dealing with the particular goods. That knowledge could be clearly given to these people by the fuel companies, because they are aware of the vulnerable position they are in when a person visits their terminals to obtain supplies of fuel. There is no way in the world that a fuel company would allow an incompetent person to dispense the fuel from the terminal into the transport operator's tanks unless that person was known to have a knowledge of all the procedures involved. His licence could be endorsed to show that he was a competent person in the handling of that product.

I do not argue against the need for the education of people who are carting dangerous and flammable goods, but I do not believe this Bill should be nearly as broad and as vague as it is. It appears to me to be an attempt to build up the bureaucracy involved, and this could affect a hell of a lot of people in a hell of a lot of businesses quite unnecessarily. Nevertheless, I support the clause.

Mr PARKER: I thank members opposite for their comments and I will endeavour to respond to them all to give them the understanding they seek of this Bill. First, since the debate the other night I have looked at this Bill in conjunction with the division. I mentioned that I had consulted with various sectors of the industry, but I omitted to mention that the Australian Petroleum Agents and Distributors Association had been actively involved in drawing up the concepts involved with this legislation and was strongly supportive of it, although it did have some queries about how the regulations would appear when the Bill was passed.

This is an enabling Bill; a "head of power" has been created in the legislation to enable the regulations to be drawn up in a way which will lead to the clarity about which the member for Darling Range spoke. Of course, regulations are subject to certain powers of this Chamber and the Legislative Council, and more and more with matters of this nature we find that the Legislative Council has shown itself to be prepared to use those powers.

As I have said, the whole aim is that once this enabling "head of power" is passed, industry groups and anyone involved in those groups who want to provide an input will have that opportunity. They will be more than welcome to do so

and to consult with my department and the Chief Inspector of Explosives and Dangerous Goods in order to ensure that the regulations in fact meet with industry requirements.

I guess it is theoretically capable of being said, as the member for Nedlands said, that notwithstanding that it is possible it could start off in the right way, it could then gradually snowball; but one could say that about anything. Rather like the member for Narrogin, although I very much admire the dedicated and hard work of the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Branch, I do not always agree with the things it says or does, though it does take up just a fairly small proportion of my time as the Minister because there are a lot of other things with which to be involved.

Nevertheless, I have had some very spirited and vigorous arguments with that branch over a number of things it has proposed to do and with which I did not agree, or vice versa. As the member for Narrogin pointed out, only on Friday I agreed with an industry view on a particular matter and put forward a suggestion which was slightly different from the view put forward by that section of the department. I do not say that one should necessarily do things simply because there is a desire to do so on the part of the department or officer concerned.

In this case I would defend Mr Douglas. I do not think there is any desire on his part to build up some bureaucracy. There is certainly no desire on the part of the Government to build up a bureaucracy. There will be no income from this and the Government will certainly not be allocating additional staff as a result. That point has been made very clear to the department and the section concerned. As a result of this no additional staff will be allocated to set up some form of bureaucracy to act as a licensing authority, in the way in which the member for Narrogin spoke about on Tuesday night.

However, we do see the need for licensing. We are attempting to marry a system in which there is a licence issued with a system which in essence is the licensing authority; not the actual issuer of the licence, but the group which determines what the licence holder must have and what is an industry group.

The question may be asked: Why not leave it to industry, and not have a section such as this? While industry can regulate the people who drive its trucks and come to its depots and terminals, whether they be fuel terminals or chemical-type terminals, occasions do occur, with loading and off-loading, where the company does not have that control, and the strict safety standards that indus-

try sets will not be able to be enforced. People in industry can enforce it within their own section, but they cannot enforce it with the people who are the end holders and transporters of the goods concerned.

It is not just a question of licensing so that people are able to drive. The driving of course is no different from driving with any other product, but when transporting large quantities of particularly hazardous chemicals, a person does need to be skilled in the handling, loading, and off-loading of those chemicals, and the driver needs to be aware of emergency procedures that ought to be followed, if an accident does occur.

This whole question of licensing the transport of dangerous goods, as the member for Narrogin said the other night, has been the subject of long discussions and, of course, the matter has been discussed Australia-wide. Some sections of industry, including the Chemical Industry Council, wanted the Western Australian Government to adopt, by reference, a code which had been drawn up on a national basis.

The former Government had a policy—I think quite rightly—which was against the adoption of codes by reference. We have recently reviewed that matter, and decided that we do not believe we should be in the business of adopting someone else's code by reference, because amendments can be made to that code in other places. We ought to be in the position of deciding whether those amendments should flow through to our regulatory mechanisms.

In South Australia, which did adopt the Australian code by reference considerable problems are experienced, as I understand it, in using the code.

One of the things about which I feel strongly is that it is proposed to look at the Australian code every two years. When I suggested some amendments, it was suggested to me that they were sensible amendments, but I would not be able to make them until 1986, or the next time the code came up for review. That is not on. This State must have the ability to add or subtract amendments to the code.

What might be an appropriate method, if industry wants an Australia-wide code, would be to have model regulations which could then be adopted in each State.

We suggest that as we have done the work in drafting and have now implemented our regulations, which we consider to be fairly model regulations—although like any other legislation there are areas which could be improved—they can be

used as the model regulations for the rest of the country.

Mr Peter Jones: We strongly agree.

Mr PARKER: We have taken the lead; we have done the work, and have put the regulations in place. Obviously, while we want to take the lead and believe we ought to make our own decisions in Western Australia, given that the transport of goods of any sort is an interstate industry, we have to try so far as we are able, to make sure that there is some degree of uniformity. To some extent both this Bill, and the regulations which have already gone into force, and regulations which will be drafted, will need to take that into account.

As I have said in general terms, industry is strongly of the view that to the maximum extent possible there ought to be uniformity between the States.

The second point I make concerning the Bill is that it is not clear-cut in the sense of what precisely will be in the regulations. No Bill providing such an enabling clause is clear-cut, but I give the committee certain assurances, in addition to those I gave the other night that the type of vehicle and the quantity of dangerous goods for which a licence will be necessary are matters which will need to be prescribed by the regulations. So we will be detailing in the regulations the type of vehicle to which we are referring and the quantity of various types of dangerous goods. That will be drafted in consultation with the industry. The chief inspector's view is that the licensing of drivers will be applicable only to those vehicles which are required to be placarded with emergency information panels—in other words, vehicles which are to be used for bulk conveyance, or for the conveyance of large quantities of dangerous goods of the most hazardous type. That is the chief inspector's view, and obviously if we are to have consultation that matter will have to be discussed with industry. The industry may have different views, but that is the department's view at the moment.

Although the industry may determine the code and the nature of the licensing arrangements, the chief inspector will be the issuer of the licences—obviously to give that broad spread so that everyone who is in the categories which are finally determined and agreed upon is considered, whether or not he is part of the industry. Obviously it is intended to be restricted in that regard, and we believe there is a need for some statutory power. It really does not matter who it is, except that industry wishes to have one regulatory authority, namely the Mines Department, to issue the

licence, after industry has set the terms and conditions for the licence.

I wish to refer to the questions that were asked of me by the member for Katanning-Roe. I have answered the first question; that is, a minimum amount will be set in the various categories. It is not intended that all categories of dangerous goods will require licensing; in fact it will be necessary only for certain volumes in certain categories.

I cannot specifically answer his question about distillate, but I will get the answer and provide it to him as quickly as I can.

Mr Peter Jones: It will be the same as other regulations.

Mr PARKER: Yes, I think where 20 litres is the minimum, that 20 litres will be the amount for licensing and where 200 litres is the same, I will check that and provide the House with that information at some future time or send a letter to the member concerned, or make a statement. I understand the point which has been made about the various users of distillate, and I am sure that will not be a problem.

With reference to the petroleum products distributors, again there was the question of whether all dangerous goods would be lumped together. I guess it is a question of administration again. It may be that industry would prefer to have one simple licence where someone who has done the course and knows what needs to be done in terms of emergency procedures, loading, handling, and so on, receives a licence for the lot.

The point the member for Katanning-Roe made was, why does someone who is carrying petrol, for example, need to know about the carrying of sodium cyanide? That could create more bureaucracies, at whatever level it takes place, whether it be industry or Government level. It might very well be that we would prefer to have one simple statement that this person is licensed to carry dangerous goods. Essentially what is required is an awareness of the sorts of dangers which they are facing in carrying dangerous goods, and an awareness of the sorts of procedures they need to follow if something goes wrong. That is what is required as part of this licence, and really it does not matter what type of dangerous goods are being carried, those procedures are largely the same—they are largely commonsense too, I might add; but it is surprising how often people do not exercise commonsense. I will look at that matter which could be one to consider in terms of carriage, in the drafting of the regulations.

The final point made by the member for Katanning-Roe related to the whipping up of pub-

lic alarm about the carriage of allegedly dangerous goods, and I agree with him. The simazine incident to which he referred took place, as I recall, in early March this year.

One can understand the views of the emergency agencies; as the member has said, that substance is harmless, but it smells and looks as though it may not be harmless.

Mr Old: They could have rung the distributor and asked what was the score.

Mr PARKER: That is right. In the early stages they decided they would do everything necessary in case it was a serious matter. There is a lot of commonsense in that. The way it was reported by the Press, particularly when it became clear in a short time that nothing major was wrong with the chemicals, and it was fertiliser or sheep dip—

Mr Old: I am not being critical of the emergency services people because they have to take pre-emptive action until they find out the substance is not dangerous.

Mr PARKER: That is what they did. I agree with the member that the Press did not acknowledge there was no danger. If one reads the articles written at the time and since the accident, one would have thought some major catastrophe had taken place, and as the member pointed out, it did not. I had a letter from, I think, the Primary Industry Association or one of the farming groups pointing that out to me, and I agree entirely; there was no problem.

Within a few days of the first accident, there was a spillage of some cyanide and the Press lumped the two together and said, "Isn't it dreadful?" and raised a lot of criticism about the accidents.

It is incumbent upon all of us to reveal the facts about these matters. We have to take all the necessary precautions, as the emergency authorities did in the case to which I have referred, in case something is wrong. I assure the member it is certainly not proposed that people who carry goods like simazine will require to be licensed. That is not on at all. It is the genuinely dangerous goods which are carried in volume that we want to deal with, and I have mentioned the sorts of dangerous goods involved.

I believe we will draft very sensible regulations. The Government will not allow the development of any form of bureaucracy. However, I believe it is right the chief inspector should be the person who issues the licences—whether it is the chief inspector or the Commissioner of Police does not matter because they are simply taking a certificate of proficiency and giving it State blessing or saying "Here is a licence". That is necessary because

some people will not go through the right channels and will get their hands on dangerous goods in substantial volume.

The reason the issuing of licences should stay with the chief inspector rather than the Commissioner of Police is that we are dealing with safety procedures for the carriage of goods which are the subject of the licence rather than driving, for which a person already has a licence, and that section of the Mines Department has that overview, expertise, and association with industry. The industry itself wants it to be the body which issues the licences.

If any further problems arise during the period in which we are drafting the regulations, I will be happy to review them with the members concerned, or with any sectors of the industry.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4: Section 61 amended—

Mr PETER JONES: I have asked for an explanation of subclause (b), but have not received one. Would the Minister like to tell me exactly what it means? I asked one of my lawyer colleagues about it and he experienced some difficulty in telling me what it meant. I think we know the intention, but it is a fairly convoluted way of saying that a person is guilty unless he can prove his innocence.

Mr PARKER: If the Chief Inspector of Explosives and Dangerous Goods issues a complaint against a person alleging that he does not hold a permit for the carriage or handling of dangerous goods or one of the licences about to be issued, he can make the statement in his complaint and he does not need to prove it, in the sense that it is not incumbent in a court proceeding for him to be called and give evidence to prove that the person does not hold a licence. If such a statement is made, it is incumbent on the person against whom the allegation is made to prove that he holds a licence. I understand that that is not unusual; it is a normal situation in police matters. When one is talking about hundreds of thousands of licences being held, it would be difficult to prove to a court that no licence existed. How does one prove it? One would have to make available the department's complete files to show it was not there.

If a person against whom the statement is made claims he has a licence, it becomes a matter of law as to whether he has one. It takes some load off the department. It could be said it is a case of being guilty and having to prove one's innocence.

Mr Peter Jones: It is an administrative protection.

Mr PARKER: It will make life easier and will not cause any inconvenience to anyone against whom such an averment is made.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 62 amended—

Mr PETER JONES: This is the most important clause of the lot because it provides the chief inspector with the option of being flexible. This clause gives him the opportunity to deal with some of the matters that the members for Katanning-Roe and Darling Range mentioned, such as special cases and so on. This clause is very welcome.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

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

METROPOLITAN MARKET AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 2 August.

Mr OLD (Katanning-Roe) [12.39 p.m.]: This Bill aims at rationalising the activities of buyers at the markets, and while it has met with some mixed reception, in the main I do not believe there is great opposition to the philosophy behind what is being done.

I know it will cause some inconvenience to buyers who have been used to the privilege of being able to go onto the floor of the markets, or at least to be admitted to the markets, prior to the start of the auctioning of goods.

While concern has been expressed, I reiterate that I believe that the majority of buyers are fairly relaxed about this matter, but would have liked to see some concessions made to them.

Not long ago buyers were allowed to go onto the floor of the markets at 2 a.m. At that time, the auction system was the main system for selling the produce at the markets. Some apprehension existed among the various agents about the fact that buyers were purchasing produce privately prior to the sales so that lots that were put up for sale were, in some instances, being withdrawn.

Some of the purchasers at the auction were getting a little annoyed about that because some of the primary lines that they wanted were being withdrawn prior to the auction.

Regulations were then introduced to prevent buyers from going onto the floor until 5 a.m. That was welcomed by most of the buyers because it took the advantage away from the early buyers who were going in and picking the eyes out of the produce.

A phone-in system was then introduced. Buyers phoned their agents and gave them their requirements. They then left it to the private treaty agents to obtain the produce that they needed for their day's commitment.

By being able to go into the market at 5 a.m., they were able to wander around and inquire from the various agents whether that agent was able to fulfil their orders. Of course, it was not always possible for the agent to do so. The buyer then knew what the shortfall would be that he would have to make up and was then able to go onto the auction floor and bid for the produce which he required.

The auction begins at 5.45 a.m. That severely restricts the buyer being able to obtain the information that he requires. However, as I said, the buyers have accepted that it is probably fairly reasonable and I understand that the amount of produce now going to auction has declined quite significantly. It has been predicted that we will see the demise of the auction system at the markets over the next few years. Whether that is correct remains to be seen. It is probably a matter of conjecture.

It seems, perhaps, that a little reshuffling of some of the practices that have been accepted at the markets would probably extend the life of the markets by a few years. I know that the Minister has commented on that on a previous occasion. However, a fair bit of capital investment has been put into the markets by at least two merchants. They have provided excellent facilities for the public to be able to go and buy fish and meat products. Naturally, those people who have invested in the markets want some security to ameliorate their capital investment.

I hope that when the Minister is approached, as he will be, about the relocation of the markets from West Perth to Canning Vale, he will take that into account.

I believe that the Perth markets are the best in Australia. One reason for their being the best is their central siting. I have no doubt that, as Perth progresses—it is progressing at a very steady rate—it will be necessary to shift the markets.

Land has been made available for the eventual resiting of the markets. I commend the Minister and the market trust for that. That has been under discussion for a long time.

However, I countenance a little caution in their making too hasty a decision about the move because some people could be left in awkward situations unless the movement is a phased movement.

Some of the larger merchants and some of the tenants at the markets feel it is desirable that they be able to stay at the present site for as long as possible. They know that the shift is inevitable. However, I ask the Minister, when he is faced with the decision, to give those people every consideration and to bring the matter to the Parliament for consideration, or at least for the information of Parliament. It is obvious, though, that he and the market trust have to make the final decision on this matter.

I understand that the industry has requested a tightening-up of regulations and legislation, that the Minister is looking at some aspects of that request, and that the market trust will be making some recommendations to him. There are some buyers who, as always, have made allegations that other buyers are gaining advantages over them. I am quite sure that, no matter what the Minister does, those allegations will continue to be made, because it is human nature for us to think, at times, that somebody is getting away with something which we are not able to get away with.

One matter that has been brought to my attention is the problem relating to the parking of buyers' vehicles. There are two very busy times at the market. The first busy time is when growers take their produce to the market. That usually occurs late at night or very early in the morning. Buyers then go to the markets to buy the produce. Sometimes the queues are horrendous. An accident occurred recently. It was an unfortunate accident both for the victim and for the person who owned the vehicle which was parked.

I do not believe that the legislation which is before us will do anything to solve the problems of accidents occurring at the markets. However, it is concerned with regulating the buyers. The president of the buyers association suggested to me that some provision should be made for the utilisation of the parking space within the market areas. He suggested that an area which is not used by the early morning buyers should be used so that at least some of the vehicles could be moved off the road. That would relieve any further possibility of accidents occurring.

I understand that land is available opposite the northern boundary of the markets. I think it is the

site of the old West Perth station. There is a proposition to make that parking area available. Instead of buyers having to go into the markets from the Wellington Street entrance, they would then be able to enter from the Market Street side. I am not too sure of the name of that street, but it is the street on the northern boundary of the market.

It will relieve the situation, but I understand that in the meantime the Minister was approached to give some consideration to utilising the parking area which is not being utilised at that time of the morning. My further understanding is that the Minister, together with Hon. Sam Piantadosi and Hon. Graham Edwards, visited the markets last Friday to investigate the situation. Perhaps during his reply the Minister may like to report to the House his thoughts on this matter.

I did not intend this to be a criticism of the Minister, but I was surprised that he was accompanied by the two gentlemen I have mentioned who are members of the Select Committee which is currently investigating the market situation. I believe that if he was to be accompanied by them he should have advised the chairman of the committee in order that the committee, as a whole, could have had the opportunity to investigate the situation. I am not levelling that as a criticism, but I believe it would have been the courteous thing to do.

I find nothing in the Bill with which to argue. I bring the matters which I raised to the attention of the Minister following the contact I had with merchants and buyers at the market. They seem to be the only points which I feel should be brought to the attention of the House.

Generally, the Opposition supports the Bill.

Mr EVANS (Warren—Minister for Agriculture) [12.52 p.m.]: The whole market situation is a fairly complex one and unless members have had the opportunity of witnessing it at its full activity, it is difficult to appreciate.

Mr Old: You have to get up early.

Mr EVANS: Yes, one does. I have been there four times in the last 18 months, but it has been well worth it.

The growers are allowed into the markets until 4.45 a.m. and then they must disperse. At 5.00 a.m.—there is a little breathing time—the buyers are allowed into the market area and at 5.45 a.m. the auction commences. Far more market produce is sold by private treaty than by the auction process.

Last year the operations of the market changed for the two reasons mentioned by the member for

Katanning-Roe. Some buyers were going into the market area before the commencement of the auction and were picking the eyes out of the quality goods, and that had serious effects on the entire selling arrangements.

It has been reported to me that one particular buyer would make an arrangement with the grower that he would take the top of the line of a certain product—for example, six cases of tomatoes—and he would pay 10 per cent above the price received at auction for the remaining cases of tomatoes. That sort of activity is fairly widespread, but it would be difficult to arrive at some definitive proof of it occurring. However, members of the market trust are aware of this operation and they have reason for their concern.

The exclusion of buyers from the market area until 5.00 a.m. was the result of that problem to which I have referred. As a result of buyers, and growers' vehicles being in the same compound there were some hair-raising incidents and unfortunate situations arose. For that reason the buyers had to park outside the market compound. This resulted in some sort of orderliness in the compound. There has been one accident, but I do not think it was connected with the buyers; it could have further implications. However, I approached the Minister for Police and Emergency Services a fortnight ago asking him whether the Police Department could provide some surveillance in the 15 minutes between 4.45 a.m. and 5.00 a.m. The sight of a blue light in Wellington Street would have a salutary effect on those people who double park and carry out infringements of that nature.

Ultimately, the markets will have to move and I will comment on that later.

The market trust is able to exclude buyers from buying areas, but cannot exclude them from the roadways. As a consequence some buyers move around the roadways and are able to conduct business and this is where the difficulty arises. It involves only some buyers, but they are receiving a benefit that others are not. It is for that reason the trust feels that the regulation that everyone must be excluded from the area will stand.

Another problem which arises is that some buying is carried out by telephone. This is part and parcel of the reason that changes are being made to this legislation.

It is true that the level of contract buying has increased dramatically, but at the same time the volume of the market produce in the auction has been maintained. As a member of a committee inquiring into the markets last year it was evident to me that every person who came before the com-

mittee was adamant that the market structure should be maintained. At least if the base price for produce is maintained the buyers will have the opportunity to top up and obtain lines which are difficult to obtain on contract.

It is one thing for fast food outlets to contract for 500 lettuce etc., but it is a different proposition if a buyer requires only minor fluctuating amounts of produce. For that reason it is important that the markets continue.

As the member for Katanning-Roe indicated there will come a time when the Wellington Street markets will not be ideally situated. Preliminary arrangements have been made for another site at Canning Vale. Now that that decision has been made an overall plan will be available in 12 months and it will have regard to the time scale. The changeover will require a phasing-out and scaling-in period of some years. I do not know whether it will be five, seven or 10 years. It is important that long-term planning be undertaken because already several of the major buyers have established complexes which are in close proximity to the present market site. This would not have occurred had proper planning been initiated earlier.

The point made by the member for Katanning-Roe is appreciated by the Government and certainly careful consideration will be given to the time which will be allowed for the overall change.

I shall refer to several points raised by the member for Katanning-Roe. The parking of the buyers' vehicles was a major point and it is proposed by the trust to examine the possibility of using a piece of land owned by the railways for a parking area. I do not know whether it is practicable for a number of buyers to be allowed to park inside the compound. It would certainly be difficult to police their activities once they are within the mesh compound. Another alternative which has been floated is the use of the Entertainment Centre parking area which would be policed to allow drivers to park in order of arrival.

Leave to Continue Speech

I seek leave of the House to continue my speech at a later stage.

Leave granted.

Debate thus adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.15 p.m.

SALES TAX: WINE

Motion

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Acting Premier) [2.16 p.m.]: I move—

This House expresses opposition to the Commonwealth Government's decision to im-

pose a sales tax of 10 per cent on Australian alcoholic grape wines and the replacement of the pre-existing discriminatory 20 per cent sales tax on imported alcoholic grape wine with additional *ad valorem* customs duties equivalent to a discriminatory tax of 10 per cent for the following reasons—

1. The Commonwealth Government's decision to impose the sales tax on Australian wine before the full inquiry into the structure of the industry announced in the Budget is completed and its findings considered.
2. The need for a complete understanding of the economic and employment consequences prior to introduction of such a tax as demonstrated by the Commonwealth Government's imposition and subsequent withdrawal of the excise duty on grape spirit used to fortify wine.
3. The particular impact such a tax may have on the small family owned, wine producers which are characteristic of the Western Australian Wine Industry.
4. The importance of fostering a young and dynamic local industry and guarding it against expedient marketing practices of overseas producers.

Furthermore, this House calls upon the Commonwealth Government to guarantee that Western Australia is given full and adequate representation on the inquiry into the structure of the industry.

This House supports the Government's decision to offer assistance to the Western Australian Wine Industry in the preparation of its submission to the inquiry referred to in the Federal Budget.

I indicate to members of the House that yesterday I sent a telex to the Treasurer and the Prime Minister indicating, in almost identical terms to those used in the motion, the opposition that the Government of Western Australia expresses to the Commonwealth concerning the decision made in this week's Federal Budget to introduce a sales tax on the wine industry throughout Australia.

Mr Evans: Well done.

Mr BRYCE: My office is currently arranging an appointment with representatives of the Federal Government—I hope that will include the Treasurer—for me to meet them at the end of next week to discuss the question directly and in very specific terms.

I stress to the House that the Government considers the wine industry to be an industry of special significance and one that is worthy of the support of members on both sides of the House. I look forward to receiving support from members opposite on this proposition.

The wine industry is very young, in part at least; it is a dynamic and quickly growing industry and one in which I have discovered a great deal of excitement. Western Australia's wine industry is very different from the industry in the basic States in terms of the largest volume of production; namely, South Australia and New South Wales. Our wine industry is essentially a small unit, family-based wine producing industry. Western Australia has more than 60 wineries; 35 based in the Swan Valley, 27 in the south-west, and six in the great southern. I am, of course, talking about wineries as opposed to vineyards, of which there are many more. That is what distinguishes the wine industry from the primary producing grape side of the industry although, of course, they are interrelated. I emphasise that we appreciate its importance as a growth industry in our State. It seems that in the last 10 or 15 years it has dawned on a growing number of people that we have the climatic and agricultural conditions to form the basis of one of the world's best wine industries.

It is not simply parochialism to say that the quality of Western Australian is equal to the best in the world. The recent success in Europe of Leeuwin Estate, and other wineries in the Swan Valley and the south-west, demonstrates this adequately. Even in Western Australia our wine industry varies quite significantly from region to region. What does cause members of the Government concern about the decision to impose a uniform sales tax of 10 per cent across the board—across the nation as it were—is that that sort of decision does not take into consideration regional differences and variations. There are differences in need, in structure, in product, in pricing policy, and in a whole range of things, even within this industry in Western Australia.

I know that my good friend and colleague, the member for Vasse, will say a great deal about the association between the wine industry and tourism. I do not intend, therefore, to elaborate that point.

Mr Blaikie: You want to liberalise it.

Mr BRYCE: I am not sure if the member for Vasse should liberalise this at an early stage lest we all finish up in a small amount of trouble.

Mr Hassell: We may all finish up in a winery.

Mr BRYCE: What is commendable about the decision made in the Federal Budget is that the

national Government will hold an inquiry into the structure and the future of the wine industry. I applaud that. I would be surprised if people closely associated with the industry likewise did not join me in applauding that decision. It is not only the Western Australian industry but the whole of the Australian wine industry which is at the crossroads in respect of a number of aspects.

Mr Peter Jones: Why not have the inquiry before?

Mr BRYCE: I agree.

Mr Rushton: You have been lauding the consultation taking place in the preparation of the Budget. You obviously knew about this before it came down.

Mr BRYCE: I did not. We can always rely on the member for Dale to produce this sort of talk. Let me indicate that I certainly did not. It was news to me, and I expressed my annoyance to the representative of the Prime Minister's Department the night the Budget was brought down.

Mr Rushton: Consultations had broken down.

Mr BRYCE: In fact if the member wants to be that facetious about every one of the multi-faceted parts of the national Budget, it is up to him to adopt that attitude. I cannot impose upon him the sort of commonsense necessary to make him see the facetiousness of that.

I suggest to all members that it is a commendable decision to put in place the inquiry which all of us feel is a very appropriate step at this stage of the industry. There are many good reasons. There has been a massive growth in demand for wine over recent years, and that rate of growth has slowed. In fact it has levelled right off. We are witnessing a very significant shake-out in this industry right across the country. We have seen heavy investment and the consolidation of many small wineries by large companies. This has led to a price-cutting war and some significant discounting, placing real pressures on the industry, particularly the industry here in Western Australia which is in an overall sense really still in something of an embryonic stage. The decision to hold the inquiry, as I have indicated, meets with the complete support of members on this side of the House, and I hope with the support of members opposite.

Mr Blaikie: The inquiry should have been held first.

Mr BRYCE: It is sensible and logical to suggest that that inquiry should have been held first. But making a decision to impose a 10 per cent sales tax across the nation pre-empts what that inquiry may find. In another sense it completely overlooks the fact, as I have already suggested, that it just may

not be appropriate to apply a uniform tax across the country.

Mr Blaikie: Hear, hear!

Mr BRYCE: Our Western Australian wine industry is at a different stage of development from the South Australian wine industry. If the South Australian wine industry is challenging the beer industry for mass consumption of alcoholic beverage, if there is a reason to tackle that particular question, then let the Federal Government have a look at it on an individual basis. That is why the inquiry should be held first.

If any of us wants to look afield for an example, we need only look to the experience in Western Australia and other parts of the country with the excise duty on grape spirit in the 1983-84 Budget. Excise duty was imposed upon a particular facet of the wine industry. It caused a great deal of problems within the industry, and as a result of various representations from members of Parliament individually, from Governments, and from individual industry groups, eventually, on 22 June this year, the Federal Government agreed to remove that excise duty.

This measure has surprised me very much. With the recent experience of that taxing exercise in its minds—and bear in mind this Budget has made provision for the amount of money collected from that excise to be actually paid back; it came to the conclusion that that sort of tax was an inappropriate tax, and it made provision to pay it back to the people who had contributed to it—I find it hard to understand why the Government then said, “We will have a new tax, a sales tax of 10 per cent across the board, and also an inquiry into the future of the industry”.

I do not want to use language any stronger than simply stating that we are certainly opposed to this wine tax and believe it ought to be removed. I hope that in the weeks ahead we can manage to sit around the table with representatives of the Commonwealth Government and pursue this question to see whether we can achieve the removal of the tax.

I have indicated in the motion that the Government has the greatest confidence in the people who comprise this industry in Western Australia and that it shares their sense of excitement for the future. It is a medium to long-range future, and we understand the repeated requests we have had from people involved in the industry indicating that they want a sense of security associated with impositions on the industry and that it is not so much a question of the level of those impositions but of knowing about them because of the lead time.

Mr Peter Jones: In all fairness, I do not disagree with what you are saying, but you have to agree that this is the second barrel of a double-barrelled shotgun, because last year before the excise was put on spirit for fortified wine, you made a point of saying that you didn't expect the Federal Government to do it and that you had made representations to it not to do it. However, subsequently it did just that, and then there were more representations and it was lifted. This is the second barrel, so really the Federal Government is not taking much notice of what is going on.

Mr BRYCE: That is not true. I happen to know that it must have been a last minute decision in the context of Cabinet discussions.

Mr Peter Jones: That makes it worse.

Mr BRYCE: No, it does not. Let us not pretend that this question has not been under consideration by Governments from either side in Canberra, probably for the last 10 years.

Mr Peter Jones: I am not disputing that. They wanted another \$60 million.

Mr BRYCE: No. For nearly a decade Federal Governments from both sides have been looking at the relative unfairness of taxing beer and not wine.

Mr Peter Jones: You said it was a late decision.

Mr BRYCE: This was a late decision.

Mr Peter Jones: I am saying they wanted more revenue, and they chose this as the way to get it.

Mr BRYCE: To put it in the correct political context, let me say that Governments from both sides of politics at a national level have been looking for a long time at what they perceive to be the relative fairness or otherwise of taxing beer very heavily and not taxing wine at all. What concerns me is the way it has been done. It is not appropriate.

I have indicated in the motion that the WA Government will very readily assist the wine industry in presenting its submission to this inquiry when it has been put in place. One of the specific questions I will raise with representatives of the Federal Government when I meet them in Canberra at the end of next week, will be this whole question of Western Australia's representation on the committee of inquiry. We believe that to be a reasonable request. I say again that the WA wine industry is a very different industry by virtue of its history, its structure, its stage of development, and indeed its potential, from the industries in South Australia and New South Wales.

Mr Blaikie: You indicated that you have been onto Treasurer Keating and Prime Minister

Hawke. What communications did you have with them prior to the delivery of the Budget?

Mr BRYCE: That is rather interesting. Does the member want to make an issue of that point?

Mr Blaikie: No.

Mr BRYCE: A suggestion has been made in the last couple of days that the Western Australian winegrowers and makers wrote a letter to me. Apparently the same letter was sent to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Minister for Agriculture expressing concern about the prospect of a sales tax being introduced. However, my department has absolutely no record of having received such a letter, even though a complete search has been conducted. A copy of that letter has now been sent to me. I might add that the Minister for Agriculture is the only one who has responded to them so far. It was not a deliberate oversight on my part; it is just that we have no record of the letter having been received. They will have our complete support, because theirs is an industry which the Government believes has an exciting future with enormous potential.

Before resuming my seat I indicate that the Opposition was good enough to provide me with a copy of the amendment the member for Vasse proposes to move. I believe it is in the interests of the industry that, wherever we can, and to the extent that we can from time to time, we should adopt a bipartisan approach to questions as basic as this one. The Government will be happy to accept the amendment the member proposes to move.

MR TROY (Mundaring) [2.36 p.m.]: I willingly second the motion and take this opportunity to express my concern about the impact of this sales tax on my electorate. After the last two years, the people involved in the wine industry in the Swan Valley—and their member—have come to look on the month of August with trepidation, because in the last two Augusts we have experienced two very frustrating occurrences. This area, which is the State's oldest and still most significant grape growing and wine making area, has been subjected to some very harsh treatment. I am fast becoming of the opinion that I should perhaps seek leave of absence from the House every August so that I might venture east to Canberra and become one of the lobbyists. Really that highlights one of the failings of this whole exercise, which is the inability of small winemakers to have their voices heard in that scene.

The problem of industry representation has been vividly displayed over two consecutive years. I am not making these remarks about being a lobbyist in a lighthearted way, because if members

examine the experience of the last two years, they will see that the problem has effectively been that the Swan Valley wine industry and other small volume producers have simply been ignored.

The representation of the industry is really heavily dominated by the large producers, and their intransigent opposition to a wine tax without development of a fall back position has inflicted quite an unequal impact on all small producers as a result.

If members examine the situation last year and the attitude shown with that most selective and damaging imposition of the wine spirit excise placed on fortified wine producers, a sector of the overall membership of that organisation which the spokesmen were not prepared to recognise, we see them as the sacrificial lambs. This year a similar result has occurred.

Small volume producers are being unfairly burdened again, and I am suspicious that this is a deliberate tactic used by the industry representation in effect to eliminate some of their smaller competitors.

Members may recall the Minister for Agriculture's reply to my question without notice on Thursday, 2 August, when he outlined the submission he had placed before the Australian Agricultural Council meeting in Cairns recently when he took up the problem of industry representation. In drawing attention to that weakness in representation, I am not ignoring the efforts made by all the local wine groups in placing their representations before the Federal Government. Unfortunately, in the heat of things, it is fairly obvious that the single spokesgroup for the industry holds a dominant position.

John Kerin, the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, was obviously concerned about this situation. I believe the announcement in the Budget of a proposed inquiry into the industry was largely as a result of his efforts. In discussions with my Federal counterpart, the Federal member for Moore (Mr Alan Blanchard) over the last few days I was advised that the inquiry will have broad terms of reference. Those terms of reference will be formed after consultation with all the States, and all elements of the industry.

The inquiry will examine the full economics of the industry, including the strong link to primary production which is so often overlooked in the wine tax argument. The inquiry will include also an examination of possible structural changes within the industry, the impact on different regions, the impact of taxation, and readjustment options.

This Government's position on the inquiry is clear. It believes that the inquiry should have been undertaken before any decision on sales tax was made. However, in view of the circumstances, it has called on the Commonwealth Government to guarantee Western Australian representation at that inquiry. The Government has offered its full support for the preparation of this State's submission.

Some of the issues which will have to go forward in that submission relate to some of the matters which were referred to by the member for Vasse last night. He referred to the flow-on effects to the wine industry in his area. I believe he portrayed accurately those multiplier elements such as machinery sales, chemicals and fertilisers, transport, labour and employment, and of course tourism.

The member for Vasse's emphasis on tourism and the wine industry was accurate. The focus on tourism in the wine industry was displayed last Monday evening at Midland with the formation of the Midland districts tourist council. That was capably implemented by the member for Helena. The major focus of that development really revolved around the Swan Valley, its grapegrowing, and its wineries.

Any threat to the wine industry in this locality would have serious implications on the whole area, particularly the potential growth in the tourism area.

When we compare this year with 1983, some interesting points emerge. Before examining the effects of this latest decision in a little more detail let us look at some of those matters. This decision is across the board when compared to the selective application which was imposed last year. It is being applied at the wholesale point, and that is infinitely better than last year's decision in terms of the financial implications to a winemaker and the costs relating to those faced with up-front payments on spirits, and of course the long-term accumulated cost on that up-front payment.

The third comparison is the removal of the guarantee requirements of excise regulations on spirit advances. That is a further significant financial burden that was involved in last year's decision.

When we look at the effects of this year's decision there will probably be only one good result from it; that is, the lifting of the previously paid excise and the repayment of it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The level of background conversation has been increasing to an unacceptable level. I ask members to extend to the

member who is speaking the courtesy which he should receive while making his speech.

Mr TROY: I have been speaking with a number of winemakers in my electorate over the last two days and have encountered mixed opinion amongst the growers about the impact of this decision. I think that reflects something which I will explain in a moment.

When we consider their market spectrum from the bottom to the upper ranges, we find an interesting contrast between the situations which exist. When looking at the bottom end, some views have been advanced that the bottom end of the market will not be greatly affected. I reject that opinion out of hand. I think it is a national opinion which may have some substance because of the high production volumes and the discounting which has been undertaken recently by major producers in Australia.

If we come back to the Western Australian scene we will find the situation is markedly different. Smaller wineries, and particularly those operating in the Swan Valley, and no doubt in the south-west and great southern areas, operate on much lower margins. Their capacity to absorb any rise is not the same as it is for their Eastern States competitors, and larger competitors.

The result of this is a gap which is widening. Local producers simply cannot cover that gap. That gap-bridging problem has been evident over the last few months with the discount in excise by those Eastern States producers.

It has been made worse by two things: The heavy discounting is obviously one of the factors; the second is the sales tax, which has been applied immediately to wineries, and not immediately to the stock-in-hand end in the retail outlets. That is a factor which was not recognised with this proposal announced by the Federal Government.

On the question of discounting, I refer to *The Australian Financial Review* of 17 August which stated as follows—

The moment of truth is rapidly approaching for Australia's small winemakers. As the big get bigger, increasing their influence in the market place, and discounting intensifies, the small wineries are finding themselves at an increasing price disadvantage.

A glance at any city wine merchant's price catalogue shows that wines of real quality are being flogged off (there's no other word for it) at a pittance. And the expensive wines, almost invariably from small makers, are getting dearer.

It seems that the big companies are willing, perhaps even eager, to forgo some profitability for the sake of market share. Where once the main battleground for discounting was in the cask market, the arena has switched to sparkling wines and, more recently, lower-priced bottled wines.

The retailing business has got to the stage that in order even to make a sale, the sales representative has to offer the wine-shop proprietor a discount. Indeed, so few retailers now sell wine at its full or recommended price that such prices have all but lost their meaning. They have become a joke.

Wine companies build discounts into their price structure, so that in effect the price they are selling at is not a real discount, but the price they are actually budgeting for. A lot of today's so-called discounting is a myth.

The big companies can afford to cut prices. They can reallocate their costs, and they enjoy economies of scale.

I think that whole quotation clearly points out the problem in this State over the last few months with the discounting operation, the impact of which will continue.

We will find the up-market section is another area of concern. It is quite wrong to assume that purchasers will not be deterred because of their greater capacity to pay in the up-market price range. What is happening here is that we are entering thresholds of price where, for example, a \$6.50 bottle of wine will increase to \$7.15; a \$7.30 wine will move to \$8.13; and a \$10 wine will move to \$11. The problem of assessing the threshold effect is difficult. Therefore, I can appreciate why opinions vary so widely in the industry at this stage. Those divided opinions from wine makers, which I referred to earlier are simply reflecting the market position they occupy. When one tries to analyse the position as a result of this announcement, one would have to consider that conditions in 1972 were different from those of 1984.

First of all, there was not an over-supply of wine. There was no significant volume of wine imports into the country. The level of interstate trade was infinitely smaller than it is today. On top of that, the economy was more expansive, which allowed for the absorption of rises. I think that portrays the very great difficulty one has in assessing the impact of the decisions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! On a previous occasion I asked for the background conversation to cease. Members are aware that *Hansard*, on occasions, has difficulty in taking down speeches. I am also aware that members like to

read their speeches and want them reported as closely as possible to what they say. If conversations go on, as they are going on on both sides of the Chamber, then the ability of *Hansard* to report speeches will be affected. If members must have conversations, I ask them to have regard for the *Hansard* reporters.

Mr TROY: I am sure that people within the electorates of Western Australia are concerned to see that every member of this place shows due consideration to this problem.

A forecast about price elasticity has been made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It refers to a 3.9 per cent decrease in sales figures in the short term, and a 13.5 per cent decrease in sales figures in the long term. Those are very, very significant figures when one considers the long-term effects of the decrease.

Alternative product switching may have some impact on that. As well, there will be a much wider range of alternatives available in 1984 than were available in 1972. I think that situation is significant and could develop.

Let us consider a typical situation which applies to one of the vigorous winemakers in my area. Currently his sales amount to \$250 000. A 14 per cent reduction which is forecast by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will mean that his sales will fall to approximately \$217 000. An amount for sales tax has to be allowed.

Point of Order

Mr HASSELL: I do not wish to interrupt the speaker. I know that he is within the limits of the time allowed for the debate. I understood that there was an agreement for the total time for this debate which involved a discipline on both sides of the House as to the time taken.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. The member can raise the matter behind the Chair.

Mr TROY: I think everyone in this House understands that the sales tax imposition will not be picked up solely by the consumer; it will be shared by three sections of the industry. The first section in the industry to be affected by the sales tax imposition is the consumer market, the second section is the retail area, and the balance will fall on the producer. One can reasonably accurately estimate then that that figure will drop from \$217 000 to somewhere in the order of \$207 000. My view is that all market sectors in Western Australia will suffer. I feel that is some-

thing that the State Government and the Opposition will not tolerate.

This Government's support for the Swan Valley grape and wine industry has been consistent. It has strongly supported the needs of the industry.

Members will recall that we fought the imposition of a wine excise very successfully. Personal representations were made by me to the Treasurer (Mr Paul Keating) and the Minister for Primary Industry (Mr Kerin). As a result the levy was dropped from \$2.61 a litre to \$1.50 a litre. Those representations lead to a visit by the Prime Minister (Mr Hawke) to the Swan Valley. Mr Kerin subsequently visited the area also and had discussions with industry representatives. During that time the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture made representations which finally led to the removal of the excise in June this year.

Undoubtedly, this issue is a bipartisan issue. I believe that all sectors of the Western Australian industry will welcome such an approach being made by all members of this House.

In conclusion, I believe that my remarks encompass the clear statement made by this Government of its concern about the decision made in the Federal Budget. We did not like it. We believe that more consideration should have been given to the implications contained in that decision. We value, very, very highly, the contribution made by the wine industry of this State to primary production and the effects it has on tourist development. We value the contribution made by family units in the industry and, as I said before, the strong links that the industry has with the primary sector. I am sure that we will all pursue this matter in a most vigorous manner.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [2.57 p.m.]: I also wish to make a contribution to the motion moved by the Acting Premier. Members on this side of the House have taken a great interest in this matter following the Budget decision announced in Federal Parliament on Tuesday evening. A 10 per cent sale tax was applied to all Australian alcoholic wine. Similarly, a decision was made which will affect the sales tax applied to imported wines. Therefore, I believe this motion is an important one for an important industry in Western Australia.

I agree with the comments made by the Acting Premier. However, I would probably be a little more harsh in my criticisms. The decision in relation to the wine industry in general will be a recipe for disaster unless some action is taken to alter that decision. It shows that there is a complete lack of understanding in Canberra of the Western Australian wine industry.

The member for Mundaring indicated the feelings of wine producers in his area. I intend to indicate the effects of the decision on the industry in other areas of the State.

The wine industry in this State has relatively few large producers. There appear to be only four main producers; namely, Valencia, Houghtons, Sandalford and Leeuwin. There may be others, but those are the biggest. The bulk of the industry is made up of small producers.

When one goes to the Swan Valley or other parts of the south-west, it is interesting to understand the different areas of production. I intend to quote from a book entitled *Wineries of Western Australia* by Joske and Hoffman. The book was printed in 1979. Although a number of wineries are not contained in the book, it gives an indication of the wine industry of Western Australia. Wineries in the Swan Valley included in the book are Adriatic Wines, which has an area of 4½ hectares and Benara Wines, which has an area of 16 hectares.

The list also refers to Garbin Wines of Toodyay, Middle Swan, with two hectares and Del Sangra Wines of Herne Hill, with 10 hectares. That indicates the size and the general nature of the wineries in the Swan Valley. If one were to go to the small producers in the south-west, one would find that similar circumstances applied with very small wineries. In the wine industry, they are referred to as the peak wineries because, in order to survive, they must produce premium wines attracting premium prices. Such is the nature and the cost of establishment due to the intense marketing competition for all wine in Western Australia.

I have observed wineries in the Swan Valley, the south-west, and the great southern; and the profits they operate on are meagre. The wineries are small farming operations of a long-term nature. The 10 per cent tax that the Commonwealth intends to squeeze out of the producers will have a profound effect on the entire industry. It will affect the smaller growers in a far greater way than the large producers.

I have had a very strong association with the Margaret River district, which has an estimated retail production worth some \$10 million a year. The Government will take \$1 million in tax from that district, and that money will go to Canberra. The Margaret River district simply cannot afford to pay that amount of tax and continue to exist.

The comments made by the Acting Premier were pertinent. He said we need an understanding of the differences in the wine industry in Australia, because the industry in this State is

different from that in other parts of Australia. I am most concerned that the Federal Government has proceeded to impose a tax without having an inquiry to investigate the effects of such a tax. The Government should give consideration to the economic circumstances of the industry. It is a case of the cart being put before the horse.

Certainly, I do not support the tax. An inquiry should come first, and at a later stage the Government could decide whether to impose a tax. It is my firm belief—I will substantiate the argument in different areas—that if a tax of this nature were to be imposed, it should not be imposed in Western Australia because of the nature of the industry.

In my view, the tax is completely wrong. It does not relate to the alcoholic content of the wine; it simply relates to a wholesale price. That makes it grossly unfair to Western Australian producers; and I will deal with that at a later stage.

The tax is unfair because the people it will hit are the small producers who depend on the production of quality wines for their existence. Because their wine is of a higher quality, they will be taxed at a higher rate than producers selling bulk wines.

This tax is being introduced at the worst time for the industry, and its introduction is irresponsible in the extreme. I refer to the headline in the *Sunday Independent* of 15 July 1984 which read, "The plonk floods in". The article read as follows—

Western Australia is fast becoming a dumping ground for surplus eastern states wines which have been unable to find a market. Local winemakers are upset by the flood.

It continued—

Mr John Barrett-Leonard, president of Swan Valley Regional Winemakers, said about 55 per cent of wines in Australia were being sold at no profit.

"WA has become a dumping ground and many of the big eastern states companies think it is a good way to get rid of surplus stock" he said.

We have the scenario of a tax on an industry which is trying to survive intense marketing pressures.

Only today I went to one of the liquor stores, Dunstan's, and picked up a "Cellar News", which contained the following—

Thomas Hardy & Sons has slashed the price of its 1982 Keppoch Rhine Riesling by half with a quantity discount deal.

The company is offering a pallet of 64 cases free for every pallet purchased.

If somebody buys a bottle, a bottle is given free. That is the situation with wine marketing in Western Australia. The competition has never been more intense than right now.

It is also interesting to have an understanding of why the Western Australian industry is besieged. Not only are the marketing and competition intense here, but also they are intense in the other States. That is because of the dramatic increase in imports to Australia from overseas countries. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that in 1983 the value of imports of wine from pressed grapes with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol was \$21.521 million; and to 30 June 1984, the figure was \$27.722 million. A dramatic increase has been seen in the importation of wine in that period. However, we may see an even greater increase in imported wines in the next 12 months.

The imposition of the 10 per cent tax on Australian wine will not help the competitiveness of the industry in the marketplace. The producers already have pressures to meet; and in July the West Australian Grape Growers and Winemakers Association expressed its concern at the effect of dumping on the Western Australian market. In an article in *The West Australian* of 17 July, the following appears—

The president of the WA Grapegrowers and Wine-makers' Association, Mr Tony Smith, said yesterday that he would be writing to the Department of Primary Industry seeking an investigation.

"We have heard of wines coming in at very low prices," he said.

Some figures suggest that the imports involve losses of \$1000 to \$1200 a container—which I call dumping.

He went on to say—

This year's European wine surplus of 30 million hectolitres would fill 16,000 Olympic sized swimming pools.

Australian wine imports this year are running 20 per cent higher than last year.

"I fear that Australia is being set up for cheap European wine imports," said Mr Ian Hickinbotham, a member of the Victorian Government's inquiry into the wine industry.

That was the scenario in Western Australia before the release of the Federal Budget on Tuesday.

Members will be aware of the French wine, the Italian wine, and the German wine coming into Western Australia. It must be understood that in the European Economic Community there is what

is referred to as a "wine lake", and we are starting to see part of the flood reaching Australia.

I crave the indulgence of the House because I have some samples I wish to deal with. Earlier today I visited a couple of local liquor stores, and I present these bottles as an example of the difficulties facing the Western Australian wine industry. Knowing the likely response of a number of members, I will not ask for the bottles to be tabled. One of the bottles is a red Bordeaux wine bottled by the firm of Chateau Belle de Vie, and the wine is a St. Emilion. It is a very good wine which is actually bottled in France.

Mr Bryce: I would not wash my feet in it.

Mr BLAIKIE: The wine sold for \$6.68 a bottle. At the same store I bought a bottle of wine from Vasse Felix, a Cape Cabernet Sauvignon which sold for \$8.99. This is an excellent wine but with the 10 per cent tax included, the price will be almost \$10.00. That wine must compete with a French imported wine priced at \$6.70. That is part of the difficulty that the Western Australian and Australian wine industry will face. I refer to a bottle of Black Tower wine from Germany. It is a white wine which I purchased for \$4.95 a bottle. A wine from my own electorate, a Ribbon Vale, Willyabrup Semillon Sauvignon Blanc sold for \$6.95. With additional wine tax, the price will be \$7.50. Therefore, there is a disparity between the prices for these two bottles of around \$2.60.

I know that there are many discerning drinkers in the community but the hip pocket certainly dictates to some people which wine they will purchase. These are two of the problems faced in Western Australia.

I have already indicated the gross unfairness to the local industry. Instead of imposing a tax of 10 per cent, the Federal Government should have looked at the difficulties the industry is facing from the imported wines in an endeavour to give a degree of marketing and tariff protection. If the car or steel industries had been involved, one can envisage that they would have had the support of the ACTU.

I refer to the unfairness of the tax as it applies to the particular wineries in the south-west. Referring to the Vasse Felix wine, almost 85c in tax will be imposed on each bottle, yet a bulk wine from the Eastern States in four litre quantities will be liable for 48c tax. That is the difference of which the Acting Premier spoke and the difference that I do not think the Federal Government properly understands.

I have indicated that the tax is unfair and discriminates against Western Australians. It is against quality production and it will be grossly

unfair to small wine producers who will not be able to compete against the bulk producers of Australia because the tax will price their premium quality wines out of the market. A revision is necessary.

I have looked closely at the motion moved by the Acting Premier and I believe it is important that the motion be tightened up. In tightening it up, I believe the House should carry a recommendation that the Commonwealth Government be called on to immediately reverse the decision it has made in respect of the 10 per cent tax imposed on Australian wine. We can also look at other factors such as customs duty, the inquiry, the need for understanding, economic circumstances, the need to understand what happens to family-owned wine producers, and so on. The Acting Premier said that next week he will be meeting with the Treasurer and other senior Government officials to discuss this matter and put the case for Western Australia. I suggest to the Acting Premier that the Government may consider the possible advantage—as this issue has now been supported on a non-partisan basis—of taking his counterpart, the Leader of the Opposition, with him to Canberra, to plead the case on behalf of the Western Australian producers.

It is important and critical that a positive decision be made.

Amendment to Motion

I move—

Delete all words after the word "House" in line 1, down to and including the word "reasons" in line 9 and substitute the following—

calls on the Commonwealth Government to immediately reverse its Budget decision to impose a 10 per cent sales tax on Australian wines for the following reasons—

1. The industry will need time to fully understand any impact regarding the replacement of the pre-existing discriminatory 20 per cent sales tax on imported alcoholic grape wine with additional *ad valorem* customs duties equivalent to a discriminatory tax of 10 per cent.

MR WATT (Albany) [3.17 p.m.]: I second the amendment moved by the member for Vasse. In doing so, I indicate that I accept that the motion moved by the Government was well-intentioned and essentially seeking the same purpose. However, as the member for Vasse has said, the intention of the motion is obviously tightened up by this

amendment. To simply express opposition to the 10 per cent tax which has been levied on wines as expressed in the original motion is not sufficient. The motion did not call on the Federal Government to take any action. Upon receiving the motion it could feel that the State Government did not like it but would accept it anyway.

Mr Jamieson interjected.

Mr WATT: Whether the member for Welshpool thinks the amount I drink will make any difference to the wine industry is obviously quite insignificant to the debate.

There is a burgeoning industry in winemaking and grape growing in the great southern as indicated by the figures quoted by the Acting Premier. There are only six wineries established in the great southern and another is being planned. I am sure that as vineyards come into production more wineries will be established. At the moment there are some 30-odd separate grape growing enterprises in the area and as has rightly been said by the Acting Premier and the member for Mundaring, the quality of some of the wine being produced puts it among the best wines in the world. It has been proved not only by their performance in international and national competitions, but also by the expressions of many people's opinions.

Mr Jamieson interjected.

Mr WATT: Yes, they have some of the highest prices in the world and I will talk about that in a moment.

One of the reasons we oppose the motion is that the tax on those wines will only make the prices even higher.

The motion addresses two questions: Firstly, it expresses the opposition of this Parliament to the wine tax and, secondly, it seeks representation on the committee of inquiry which is to be established.

I simply echo the sentiments expressed already that it is really a back-to-front method of going about things to impose a tax and then say, "We shall have a committee of inquiry to see just what the problems are in the industry". Clearly it is like imposing a penalty and then, if one finds one is wrong, saying later on, "I am sorry, I made a blue. I cannot fix it up, but I am sorry".

Mr Troy: What do you then suggest a Government do if the upper echelons of the industry representation don't advance the concerns of the small producers whom you and I represent?

Mr WATT: If what the member suggests is right, the industry itself has something for which to answer. It is my strong understanding a con-

siderable amount of pressure has been exerted by the industry on both State and Federal representatives to oppose this tax in the Budget.

Recently the Acting Premier was in Albany for a wine seminar. On that occasion we were made aware of the fears of the industry about the imposition of a wine tax and we were asked to make representations. The member may argue that they should have been doing something themselves—

Mr Troy: The locals did, but not at the top level.

Mr WATT: Perhaps that is where the problem lies; I do not know. Wherever it lies, the effect remains the same and the member and I certainly agree on that.

The suggestion, as it was reported in the media, that soft drink and beer are being discriminated against, therefore it is necessary to impose tax on wine, does not ring true. I do not accept that as an argument.

As far as I am concerned, the real reason for imposing the tax is that the Federal Government has painted itself into a corner by big spending and it really has to find heaps of money to service the national debt.

One simply cannot have deficits of the order of \$7 billion or \$8 billion without having to find extra money from somewhere to service it; therefore, the Government takes \$1 million from here and \$1 million from there. The member for Vasse has said already that it will cost an extra \$1 million or so just in his region alone.

I do not know the level of wine sales nationally, but obviously they would be significant and 10 per cent of that amount would go a long way towards servicing the interest on the national debt. When we have a big-spending Government incurring big deficits, it must take every opportunity to get the money from somewhere.

Mr Tonkin: That is why we brought the deficit back from your level.

Mr WATT: The deficit has grown during the terms of successive Governments and I do not think the present Government can claim any credit in that area. It has ideas about reducing the deficit, but only time will tell whether that in fact happens.

My concern lies with the small wineries, grape-growers, and producers in the great southern part of the State where there are some 30-odd grape-growers.

As the member for Vasse has demonstrated already, the essential difference between the large and small growers is that the large growers, because they have been established for many years and are financially secure, are able to absorb the

impact of changes in the economy as the market determines. They are efficient and have streamlined operations. They are able to take advantage of the economies of scale which exist because of their size. All of those advantages are not available to the small growers, many of whom are new to the industry.

Many of the small growers are still in the developmental stages. They are still experimenting with their grapegrowing in areas like the great southern where it is a new industry. They are experimenting with different varieties of grapes and they cannot take advantage of economies of scale. Consequently they are faced with a higher cost per bottle.

Mr Blaikie: If a company gets into any sort of difficulty, it then leaves itself wide open for a takeover by a bigger company.

Mr WATT: Obviously that has been happening in the industry. The people who operate these businesses in the southern part of the State and in the Swan Valley are frequently families. We have a responsibility to these small family businesses. Many of them have gone into the growing of grapes and the production of wine to make other farming activities more viable. Frequently they mix the production of wine with graingrowing and cattle and sheep farming. They produce wine only to improve the viability of their farming operation, rather than to become solely wine producers.

Many of these people have had rather substantial successes. I have spoken with three wine producers in my area who have told me that, during Easter alone, they sold hundreds of dollars worth of wine just to the tourist trade.

Obviously people are travelling specifically on what is called the "wine route" to try to buy, in some cases, hundreds of dollars worth of wine just because it happens to be their hobby or activity. Clearly these people will be affected.

One winery in Frankland River has recently opened a retail wine outlet in a tourist complex in Albany with the single aim of taking advantage of the tourist traffic. Another winery is currently negotiating to purchase property in Albany which will enable it to establish a winery in the town, again to take advantage of the tourist traffic.

The Federal Government has failed to recognise the impact that the wine tax will have on these small wineries. The value of the small wineries to the tourist trade has not been taken into account properly.

There are many other aspects in respect of the selling of wine which produces revenue to the Federal Government. One of those is the tourist activ-

ity that it generates, but there are others, and these should not be overlooked.

I am sorry the member for Kalgoorlie is not in the Chamber, because he has a motion on the Notice Paper which attacks a resolution passed at the Liberal Party State Conference which was aimed at improving efficiency in certain aspects of business. No doubt when he moves that motion, bearing in mind its wording, he will complain about the effect on small businesses and families in the country that that resolution would have. However, he might well do his cause a service were he to direct his energies towards making his views known to the Federal Government in respect of the effect on small businesses and families in the country who engage in these businesses. He could make his protests on this matter to the Federal Government in the same way.

My concluding point relates specifically to the great southern. Every time an economically worthwhile industry is established in the great southern, it seems to run into trouble.

A little while ago the whaling industry was going along nicely. Then the Federal Government—I know it was a Federal Government of my own party—took action which led to the undoing of that industry.

Recently we had problems in the tuna industry which were brought about by Federal intervention, at a time when many people were expanding in the industry and were being told it was a worthwhile industry to be in. Now people are moving into the wine industry with the encouragement of both Federal and State Governments, and just when it starts to get on its feet the viability of that industry is challenged, or attacked by the imposition of an unnecessary tax.

The wine industry has many facets: It has the capacity to contribute greatly to the employment of people in this State. One's mind turns automatically to the people who grow the grapes and work in the vineyards, but many people are employed in the industry. The member for Mundaring mentioned the fact that many wineries are part of mixed farming operations and engage contract pruners and pickers. Then retailers, restaurateurs, people involved in transport, packaging, machinery sales, chemicals, building materials, water storage etc., are involved also.

I identify myself with the comments made by the three speakers prior to me because I do think the amended motion will create more impact. I appreciate the fact that the Government has been prepared to agree to the amendment moved by the member for Vasse. I support the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Motion, as Amended

Question (motion, as amended) put and passed.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT: RETIREMENT*Motion*

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Acting Premier) [4.05 p.m.]: I move, without notice—

That this House places on record its appreciation of the distinguished service given by the member for Mt. Lawley, Hon. R. J. O'Connor, M.L.A., and the member for Cockburn, Hon. A. D. Taylor, M.L.A., acknowledges their sound contribution to the Parliament and for the people of Western Australia, and wishes them well in their retirement from the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to place on record the appreciation of this House for the distinguished service given by the member for Mt. Lawley, Hon. R. J. O'Connor, MLA, and the member for Cockburn, Hon. A. D. Taylor, MLA. The House acknowledges their sound contribution to the Parliament and to the people of Western Australia, and wishes them well in their retirement from the Legislative Assembly.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr BRYCE: In moving this motion and asking members on both sides of the House to support it, I stress that today is a fairly unusual day. We have a former Premier of the State and a former Deputy Premier of the State appearing in the Legislative Assembly for the last time prior to their resignations being submitted to the Speaker tomorrow.

As has often been said on similar occasions, some of us have the opportunity to make up our minds when we would like to retire, and on other occasions the people make up their minds for us. On this occasion, the member for Mt. Lawley and the member for Cockburn have clearly made their decisions and they have the luxury of selecting the timing to suit themselves.

The member for Mt. Lawley was elected to the Legislative Assembly 25 years ago at the relatively young age of 33. That election was fairly remarkable in Western Australia in political historical terms. It was the 1959 election, and it marked the beginning of a long period of coalition Government. The 1959 election can be quite reasonably termed the beginning of the golden years of electoral success for the coalition parties. It is important to appreciate what a turning point that year was in the history of the State.

Of the 27 years before 1959, the Australian Labor Party governed Western Australia for all but six. For the 25 years which have followed 1959, the coalition parties governed the State for all but four. It is in that context since 1959 that the career of the member for Mt. Lawley and his contribution to those golden years of electoral success have been made. After he had been in Parliament for only six years, in 1965, the member for Mt. Lawley was appointed to the Cabinet. He went on to serve as a Minister of the Crown for 16 years. In all, he administered 18 different portfolios.

He was elected Deputy Premier of the State in 1980, and, as we all know, he became the twenty second Premier of Western Australia on 25 January 1982. In anybody's language and anybody's terms or experience, that is a remarkable achievement and constitutes an outstanding contribution to the State.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr BRYCE: Ray O'Connor and I have discussed the question of the pressures of office from time to time, as have all members on both sides of the House in different social situations over a period. It is difficult for anybody who has not actually been given ministerial office to understand the pressure and responsibilities which go with the office. For a person to sustain that workload for 16 years under the pressure involved, constitutes a first-class contribution in anybody's language.

With the legislation he introduced into this Chamber over those years—I understand it exceeded 130 individual Bills—he indicated publicly that perhaps his greatest satisfaction was in his role as Minister for Police. When he introduced the seatbelt and breathalyser legislation, it led to a very marked reduction in the road toll in Western Australia.

He has also indicated publicly that of all the projects with which he was associated during that long period in office as a Minister, with all those different portfolios, perhaps the project that gave him personally the greatest satisfaction involved his responsibility for and his opportunity to preside over the establishment of the standard gauge link between our State and eastern Australia.

The record in this place will show that as a Minister, Ray O'Connor was very rarely in trouble. I guess that if one measures trouble for a Minister by adding up the number of censure motions he has had to face from time to time in the political process, and if members will reflect fairly and squarely, they will agree that as a Minister,

his record will reveal that he handled all his portfolios with a great deal of competence.

As a parliamentarian, I think it is an appropriate opportunity for me to say to him that in my professional association with him, I recognise and respect the fact that he played it tough. I remember that when I was a very young man in this place, I was almost glued to my seat when witnessing an exchange between the member for Mt. Lawley and the late Herb Graham. It was not the odd occasion; in fact, it happened quite frequently. I was very delighted to discover subsequently that outside the Chamber those members were soul brothers at the East Perth Football Club and were good personal friends. They played their roles in a very tough and professional manner, but that did not affect their ability as human beings to relate to each other very effectively.

In saying that the member for Mt. Lawley played it tough, I can say that he also exemplified another very important part of the exchanges that occur in this place, because in the way he handled himself in debate he revealed that he adhered to that basic and fairly fundamental adage that if one dishes it out, one has to be prepared to cop it, as one inevitably does in this job with the hurly-burly of politics. He was no squealer. It was a measure of his professional effectiveness that he handled that part of the job very well, and it is something from which we can all learn.

Having said that about his toughness, I want also to acknowledge that the man himself is a genial human being, and he also has a side of his nature in both a personal and professional sense that has made him a very effective conciliator. It is that side of his character which he brought to this place and I believe that today provides us with an appropriate opportunity to tell him that we respect him.

The last thing I would like to say about his contribution to this Chamber is something which I hope he takes with him and appreciates, because many of us for years to come will appreciate that it was during the period of his Premiership that some commonsense began to emerge in the sitting hours of this Chamber. I have never been able—despite my youth at the time and my ability because of my youth to be able to remain awake—to quite understand the tradition that had us starting a session at 4.30 p.m. and often finishing close to 12 hours later on just so many occasions. I think that a very valuable new standard began to be established during the time of his Premiership. We respected it and accepted it. It was one of the very basic reasons we appointed a Leader of the House to manage the business and

the affairs of the House, because we saw what we believed could be a very significant improvement.

Mr Speaker, I would like also to pay a particular tribute to the member for Cockburn. Don Taylor was elected to the Legislative Assembly 16 years ago at the age of 40 at an election which produced 10 new Australian Labor Party members to this Chamber. It was an occasion of fairly significant changeover in membership of the Chamber. In case members opposite do not know, I point out that those members pride themselves in a very exclusive way in a social sense inside our party. Of course, Mr Speaker, you are one of them. They regard themselves as the very famous class of '68, taking credit for everything that has been achieved since then.

With the election of the Tonkin Labor Government in 1971, the member for Cockburn became a Minister after he had been a member of Parliament for only three years. With the retirement of Herb Graham just a couple of years later, in 1973, Don Taylor became the Deputy Premier in the Tonkin Government after only five years in the Parliament.

It gives me a great deal of satisfaction today, in my capacity as Acting Premier, to say that I have absolutely no doubt that if political history had been slightly different and the Australian Labor Party had been returned to office in 1974, with the impending retirement of John Tonkin as the senior statesman, Don Taylor would have become the Premier of this State and would have been an excellent Premier.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr BRYCE: He was a great success as a Minister and in three years he administered eight portfolios. As I have no great desire to change my portfolios, I hope the true measure of greatness is not ultimately the test of how many portfolios one administers while one is in office! -

After the change of Government in 1974, and for his own reasons, Don Taylor did not seek the leadership of the Labor Party; nor did he seek the leadership of the party when John Tonkin retired as Leader of the Opposition in 1976. Don went on to complete the last 10 years of his parliamentary career, from 1974 to 1984, as an Opposition spokesman and backbench member.

While he was the Minister for Labour in the Tonkin Government, he introduced a very interesting and significant range of new industrial legislation covering areas such as industrial safety, long service leave, workers' compensation, sick leave, and reforms for the SGIO. Such is our system that Don Taylor probably has the highest record of having introduced into the Parliament

significant legislation which was ultimately rejected by the other House of Parliament.

On the opposite side of the House to the member for Mt. Lawley, the member for Cockburn actually suffered the frustration of spending 12 of his 16 years in Parliament in Opposition. I would like all members of the House to appreciate that it is my view that Don Taylor is one of the most constructive people I have ever met in my life.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr BRYCE: It is my view that, because the system actually denied him the chance to develop his talents to the full office, Western Australia was denied a really significant potential asset. As a parliamentarian, Don Taylor was a great communicator. He had all the skills required to deal with the challenges which the media present to parliamentarians from time to time; and I say without the slightest reservation that in his day he was one of the finest and most effective speakers I have ever heard in this Chamber.

Some of the most valuable discussions I have had in politics, analysing the process of politics and the problems of Government, have been with the member for Cockburn. I had the privilege of sharing an office in Parliament with him for a period, and all of us who have worked with him and know him respect him for his intelligence, integrity, and perception. I would be prepared to sum him up as one of the fairly rare nice guys of politics. Many of his friends have said of him that he was too nice a bloke for the hurly-burly of politics.

I conclude my remarks by saying that the careers of both members were indisputably affected by the swing of the political pendulum. The member for Mt. Lawley became the leader of his party after it had been in office for 20 of the previous 23 years, and he had the unenviable task of trying to extend that record. The member for Cockburn reached a leadership position in the political process at the beginning of a long period in the wilderness for the Australian Labor Party.

Both members are retiring when they are only in their fifties. It is the beginning of a new trend in parliamentary life in this State. For many generations, men principally, and very few women, began their careers in Parliament at that stage of life and tended to go on into their sixties and well into their seventies. Members of Parliament are being elected to this place and making their contribution at a much earlier age, and I believe the departure of these two very experienced and accomplished parliamentarians is probably the beginning of a new era in parliamentary life. We will probably see many more people enter this institution at a younger age and leave it at a younger age. Both

members have developed many friends on both sides of the House, and we all wish them many years of excellent health as they begin the next phase of their lives.

[Applause.]

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [4.23 p.m.]: It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Opposition to second the motion recording our appreciation of the members for Mt. Lawley and Cockburn, Ray O'Connor and Don Taylor.

I do not know the details of Don Taylor's career in the way that I do those of my colleague, Ray O'Connor. However, in the time I have been in the House, Don Taylor has been here and has always been a very kindly and gentlemanly person, and one with whom I have never exchanged a cross or an unpleasant word. I have been pleased to be in the House with him. The member for Katanning-Roe will make further remarks about his career on behalf of the Opposition, but the member knows that he leaves here with my very best wishes and kindest regards for a long and happy retirement.

I will refer now to Ray O'Connor whom I have had the honour to succeed in the office I hold. I want to place on record a little more of his career than has already been covered in part by the Acting Premier.

Mr O'Connor's father was a policeman, and Ray O'Connor spent the first 14 years of his life in the country, the first seven of them in Esperance. I well remember visiting Esperance as Minister for Police, and inevitably visiting the police station, and almost as inevitably entering into discussions about the need for a new house for the local policeman. While that was mentioned as being essential, and I notice the present Minister for Police and Emergency Services is familiar with the pattern, it was immediately said that should a new house be provided, it would be necessary to find some way to preserve the house in which the Premier of the State had been born. So a new house would have to be provided and the old one preserved. That is very seldom the pattern, as members would know.

Ray O'Connor left school at the age of 14 years, and became a clerk with the SX Windmill Company. He was a champion athlete of his school in his last year at school. In 1943, he won the State open discus and hurdles, and he was second in the high jump in his year to John Winter and second in hammer throw and discus. Of course, in those years, the country was gripped in the tremendous struggle of World War II, and Ray O'Connor went into the Army and served as

an intelligence officer with the armed services in Bougainville and New Britain.

On more than one occasion, I heard Sir Charles Court refer to the tremendous courage which Ray O'Connor displayed in some pretty terrifying circumstances. We would all want to pay tribute to people who made that contribution and displayed that kind of courage. Such courage is not given to everyone, and those who are able to use it as he did in circumstances I have heard described on more than one occasions, deserve our enormous admiration.

In more peaceful times, Ray O'Connor played league football for East Perth and won the "A" grade amateur football medal, the Prendergast Medal. He entered business on his own in 1954, and by 1958 had his own tearooms and three motor yards, and was an original director with the Town & Country Terminating Building Society.

As has been mentioned by the Acting Premier, Ray entered Parliament in 1959 for the seat of North Perth which had never previously been held by anyone other than a Labor member. That was the year David Brand won Government by one seat and became Premier. On the redistribution of seats, Ray O'Connor was endorsed for and held the seat of Mt. Lawley, from which seat he will retire tomorrow.

In 1962, as a Minister in the Brand Government, Ray O'Connor was responsible for negotiations between the Government and the Parents and Friends Association when Western Australia became the first State to provide State aid to private schools. This was later followed by all other States. He was responsible as a Minister for negotiations between the Government and the banks on the introduction of a five-day week for banks.

He was appointed to the Brand Ministry in 1965 as Minister for Transport, and as has been mentioned by the Acting Premier, held a record 18 portfolios including the position of Deputy Premier and Premier of this State. He was a Minister of the Crown for 15 years.

Some of Ray O'Connor's achievements will last for a long time in terms of their benefits to the community. He introduced more than 200 Bills to Parliament covering almost every portfolio. He was Minister for Police in 1974, when action was taken which commenced the substantial reduction in Western Australia's road toll. That year, of course, marked the establishment of the Road Traffic Authority. That was the first occasion on which State-wide traffic control came under the one authority.

The Road Traffic Authority was, as history has proved, an interim measure. However, it was a vehicle whereby State-wide traffic control was achieved. As a result of achieving that it further achieved a reduction in deaths and injuries on the roads.

On some occasions, I heard Ray O'Connor describe the delicacy of the negotiations, involving, as they did, firmly-held political views, firmly-held police views as to what might have been interpreted as a dismemberment of the Police Force, and very firmly-held views by local government which was less than enthusiastic about giving up its control of traffic. He was able to bring all those sections together, and make the Road Traffic Authority work. At the end of the day, the completion of the transfer of control to the police was achieved.

The standard gauge railway line was completed when he was Minister for Railways and the first *Indian-Pacific* train crossed Australia.

He introduced the legislation which required the compulsory wearing of seatbelts. That has been responsible for a great deal of the reduction in the number of people seriously injured as a result of car accidents.

When he was Minister for Transport, he took to Cabinet and secured approval for extensions to the north-south freeway.

During his term as Premier, he achieved the lowest quarterly CPI increase in Australia and achieved an increase in employment growth in Western Australia at a time when the trend in other places was otherwise.

Above that brief outline of Ray O'Connor's political and private career—it spans a great deal of time, an enormous amount of effort, and a tremendous commitment—many people remember Ray O'Connor more as a friend and a colleague than as a politician.

Although the Acting Premier is absent from the House, I assure him that Opposition members appreciate the tributes which he paid to Ray O'Connor.

To Ray O'Connor, to his wife Vesna, and to his family, we extend our sincere good wishes for a long and very happy retirement.

In the light of recent newspaper reports, I sincerely hope that Vesna will not cease to be a political widow only to become a golf widow! I wish Ray O'Connor all the very best.

MR OLD (Katanning-Roe) [4.33 p.m.]: Being the third speaker after speakers of the calibre of the Acting Premier and the Leader of the Opposition is not an easy task. It is almost like being

saddled with toasting the bridesmaids at a wedding because, by that time, most of the good things have been said. Bill Hassell said that he did not know a lot about Don Taylor and asked me to say a few words about Don as well as about Ray. I will do that with very great pleasure.

I think the greatest compliment which could be paid to any man, and especially to Don who has spent so long in Parliament, is to say that Don Taylor is a perfect gentleman.

Members: Hear! hear!

Mr OLD: He has always acted in a gentlemanly manner and will be remembered very fondly by members in this House as a man of very high principle and as a person who went about his business in a quiet way.

I knew Don prior to his coming into Parliament, although I did not know him terribly well. I knew him as a result of my association with local government and his activities as an adviser to what was then known as the Junior Farmers. In those days the junior farmer movement was a very important movement in Western Australia. I suppose it was the biggest and one of the earlier youth movements. Some of the men involved in organising and advising junior farmers were of a very high calibre. Don Taylor certainly rated very highly among them.

Don has very many friends living in conservative electorates, such as the electorate of Katanning-Roe, and they remember him with great affection. Although they could never work out his politics, they all said he was a gentleman and a very fine adviser.

He came into Parliament, as the Acting Premier said, in 1968 with some other notable members who sit in this place today, like Tom Bateman and Tom Jones who, unfortunately, is not here. He also entered this Parliament with Ken McIver and John Harman. There were others, but I am afraid I cannot name them. They are a famous quintet and have stuck together. They have been what we would regard as good mates in the true meaning of the Australian idiom. I know they are sorry to see Don go. However, there comes a time when we all must go.

Don certainly served with distinction as a Minister in the Tonkin Government when, again, I had an opportunity to deal with him. As the Acting Premier said, he later became Deputy Premier. Ray O'Connor was accused in a newspaper the other day of stopping Don Taylor from becoming Premier. If that were the case, it is a black mark against Ray O'Connor! However, I do not really believe that was the case.

I add my very best wishes to those already extended to Don and on behalf of the Opposition—I know my colleagues on the Opposition benches share my views about Don's character—wish him well in whatever he does in the future.

Hon. Ray O'Connor was my boss until recently. I cannot say much more about his political career because not much has been left unsaid. Ray O'Connor is a man in whom I have had great faith and whom I greatly admire. Admittedly, in the years following our fall from grace with the electorate and Ray's subsequent movement from the front bench, I have been privileged to have a couple of games of golf with him. Perhaps golf is not among his greatest skills. However, I assure members that he is on the up and up. In fact, I was moved one day, probably in a fit of pique after being defeated by him, to suggest that he was a pot-hunter because he seemed to be winning so many trophies.

Mr Crane: His handicap helped.

Mr OLD: As the member said, his handicap helped him. I do not believe that he was putting his cards in! I might be doing him a great injustice.

The Leader of the Opposition said that Ray began his life in the country. He spent part of his early life in a small town near Katanning called Narrogin where his father was the sergeant of police. I have always had great affection for Narrogin as a suburb of Katanning.

Apart from the distinction of having a father who was a sergeant of police—he was a pretty big fellow who could wield a fair bit of influence—as a young fellow Ray also had the distinction of attending the convent school in Narrogin.

It is rather rare that a student at a school becomes so attached to that school that he finds it hard to let go. However, this was the case with Ray O'Connor because at a later stage when he was the Minister for Railways, Ray went to Narrogin with Peter Jones, the member for Narrogin and bought the convent. That was rather an odd occurrence. I know that my greatest ambition was to burn the school down, but Ray bought it and it became the headquarters for Westrail, and continues to be so.

He has been mentioned as a great sportsman and one who identifies very well with the ordinary people, and he listens to their problems. I heard a story about him, as told by an ex-Premier, who shall be unnamed. Ray is joining that band of ex-Premiers. We have some distinguished ex-Premiers living in Western Australian and one living in South Australia who travels to this State regularly. It is nice to see these ex-Premiers meet-

ing the present Premier. The ex-Premier told me the story that he was campaigning with Ray in the days when campaigning was done from the back of a truck. They were driving around the electorate with loudspeakers and drumming up votes on the street corners. After one street corner meeting, the truck took off, and when it arrived at the next corner there was no candidate. Apparently Ray had jumped off the truck to see a mate and the truck had driven off without him. However, he soon came jogging down the road and explained the situation satisfactorily enough to be re-elected.

Ray has always been regarded as pretty tough and I have seen him depicted as a fighter with the *nom de plume* of "Rocky". However, he is not as tough as he looks. In the past, we attended certain meetings and sat next to each other in the pecking order. Ray is a great practical joker; he goes in for such gentle jokes as pulling the chair out from under one as one sits down. There have been a few bent spines but apart from that very little damage. He arrived at one meeting a little late and after a surreptitious look around, I hauled off and hit him on the arm with my clenched fist. I was most surprised to find that that very tough fellow very quickly succumbed and was almost in tears. It really upset my day. I was full of apologies and he told me that it did not matter but that he had just come from the doctor's surgery and he had five stitches in his arm after the removal of a cyst. It was the only time I had a fisticuffs victory over him.

I will say no more except that I endorse the very best wishes to Ray, his wife and family and to Don and his wife and family which have been expressed by the previous speakers.

[Applause.]

MR A. D. TAYLOR (Cockburn) [4.43 p.m.]: It is with some diffidence that I rise on this occasion—not having spoken for quite some time—and address my thoughts to the members of this Chamber. I had some comments prepared and they were, in fact, somewhat scathing. Unfortunately, this is to be my last opportunity on which to get out of my system some of the things that have been building up over the years. However, after listening to the very kind comments of the Acting Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Country Party, my thoughts have changed.

I must admit that for a while, after listening to the thoughts expressed from members on the other side I realised why I may not have done as well as I could have. Perhaps I would have done better if I had not had so many friends on that side of the House. On the other hand, half way through the

Acting Premier's speech—which impressed me very much and for which I am most grateful to him—a fleeting thought came to me that I should run to him, drop to my knees in front of him and say, "Mal, you win. I will stay for another term or two". However, that thought was very fleeting.

It gives me extra pleasure to be leaving Parliament on the same day as is the member for Mt. Lawley, Ray O'Connor. As I indicated to some members outside the Chamber, after leaving school in 1944, I began my career with a company called Southern Cross Machinery in Maylands as a junior office boy. The senior office boy at the time was the present member for Mt. Lawley. He does not seem to remember very much about it, but as it was my first job, I can recall it well. He was very kind, helpful, and most considerate to me, and did all he could make my life in that place a comfortable one. In fact, the Chamber will appreciate it when I say that he showed such qualities that, with hindsight, I think he would have made an excellent socialist. His qualities have not changed.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to introduce the subject of the newspaper report last Sunday and to say that the comments were not correct. He was the toughest guy I had to face as Minister for Labour and he seemed to relish raising one issue after another against me personally each week. However, no matter what went on in the Chamber, outside it Ray O'Connor has always been a most sincere man to whom I could always speak, and a man who could be regarded as a friend.

I have been asked through an intermediary from the Premier, Brian Burke, to pass on his best wishes to the member for Mt. Lawley and to indicate that his last request as a member, for some flags, has been rushed through and they are all under way.

I am not quite sure how one should finish a final speech. Perhaps I could round off with some general comments and a couple of disappointments. I would not have missed the parliamentary process for anything; it is one of the greatest experiences one could have. It is not the sort of thing one would say outside Parliament, but those who are present will understand. There is some pleasure in being selected in the first place; having the confidence of one's party to stand as a candidate is also worthwhile. Then to have the continual support of people in the electorate and the opportunity to make an ever-widening circle of friends is a great thing. It has been a great pleasure for me and I have absolutely no regrets about having gone into politics. However, I repeat the comment made by John Tonkin on his final night in Parliament; that

is, that at this stage I have no regrets about leaving politics.

I came into the Chamber feeling that the world could be a better place and perhaps I could play a part in improving it. I have a lesson for some of the new members: During the first five minutes of my first day in the Chamber, which was also opening day, I sought leave to introduce a motion of no confidence. It was perhaps the height of temerity, but it indicated the mood I was in at the time.

I crossed the Chamber twice on matters of principle during my first two or three years. I and a few others moved from behind my leader on the front bench to vote with the then Premier, Sir David Brand, his Deputy Premier, Sir Crawford David Nalder, and with Sir Charles Court as he was later to become. On both these occasions I lost the vote. The two issues involved were: The termination of the pregnancy Bill in which you, Mr Speaker, had a part to play; and secondly, the removal of the Barracks Arch, which the member for Welshpool, you, Mr Speaker, and I supported.

Instead of moving into the strength, I saw the member for South Perth rallying backbench members from the Government to go to the other side, leaving us ruined in a minority. There have been occasions like that and some problems on the way.

Soon after becoming Minister for Housing my greatest concerns were to be able to make a grand gesture to allow elderly men to be included in accommodation listings with those of elderly women, and also to allocate a very substantial proportion of the first year's Budget to Aboriginal housing. Both of these issues were very worthwhile and gave me great pleasure. I could almost feel the power I had in those early decisions aimed at changing the world.

When I approached the Premier, he told me that there was no more money available for housing and all I had done was to increase the waiting list for elderly women by two years and for my constituents from three years to 4½ years. So much for power! That was only the first of many lessons I learnt in Government.

There were also some areas of disappointment. One would be a belief espoused long before I came into Parliament and held by Sir Charles Court, the late Herb Graham, me, and Ministers since, that somehow this State must get past the stage of simply processing minerals; that our industrial base must be extended wherever possible to increase employment opportunities in Western Australia. It is something which all Governments which I have known have tried very hard to achieve. It is one of my real regrets that, after 16 years here and after watching the position for 20

years, no matter what we do as a State we are still battling to improve employment opportunities while developing our primary industries and mineral processing. We do not seem to be advancing with respect to manufacturing.

Another aspect worries me and it is an area in which I intend to become involved when I leave the Parliament. After I arrived in this Chamber initially, I spoke frequently about the problems of the people in Kwinana. We had 31 nationalities which were brought together by the Government; encouraged to come here by that Government; and housed in a town established by the Government. The housing problems experienced in that area were very real. Despite all the talk about Kwinana, that community is very happy and contented. However, it was disappointing to see it grow and then decline to the stage where now the unemployment rate has increased from nil in 1968, when I came into the Parliament, to approximately 27 per cent for 15 to 19-year-olds, and 30 per cent for 19 to 24-year-olds. It is not a record with which one would want to leave the Parliament. Those are the two aspects I would like to have seen remedied.

Overall, my time in Parliament has been very enjoyable. I know the State has progressed. Despite the fact that we argue over all sorts of matters, such as education, health, and transport, things are getting better. Whether that is occurring because of politicians or despite them, I am not sure. I do not know whether we should take credit for it. However, in my personal experiences, all I see are the disappointments; but there is no doubt that if one steps back and looks in from outside, collectively, during the terms of various Governments, one knows that things have improved.

I express my real appreciation to the staff and members of Parliament House. That may sound trite, but from the time I came into this place, I have felt a real warmth and friendship with everyone. That goes for the attendants, the Clerks, the stewards, and the people who work on the switchboard. This was more than just a casual association; it was something that I looked forward to. It has been a very heartwarming experience and I appreciated it.

I also extend my appreciation to *Hansard*, and particularly to Mrs Jessie Bussola whom I knew before I came here. In the early days, she was a tremendous help to me and a great friend.

I thank all of you gentlemen. I knew some of the members who preceded you, and I have greatly appreciated my association with you.

Once again, I extend a great "Thank you" to my party and to my electorate.

In conclusion, I use again one of these trite expressions, but I mean it more sincerely than anything else I have said: I thank my wife, mother, and family for the help they have given me. While it could be said that I have made many sacrifices of my time and energy during my years in Parliament, my family have certainly made more sacrifices than I have.

Mr Speaker and members, I thank you very much for giving me this last opportunity to speak in this place and I thank you all for the kind remarks you have made.

[Applause.]

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley) [4.55 p.m.]: I thank the Acting Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Katanning-Roe, and Don Taylor for the comments they have made about me.

I have been in Parliament for 26 years and now realising that this is my last speech, and that I am leaving here today, I feel as though I am leaving home. This has been my second home, as it has been for many members for a long time.

I do not think the average individual outside Parliament understands the difficulties and traumas faced by members of Parliament and the strains their occupation places on their wives and families.

I shall make a couple of comments on that aspect before I turn to some other issues. I have been a member for 26 years and I have handled 18 portfolios. I assure each and every member that, while some backbenchers may think they work hard, if they become Ministers they will find they will need twice the time to do their work and if they become Deputy Premier or Premier, they will have to find a little extra time again.

I would rise at 5.15 a.m. and leave home at 6.30 or 7.30 a.m. On many occasions, I have gone out to get the newspaper at 6.00 a.m. only to find two or three cars out there with people waiting to see me before I went to work. They knew the time that I left for the office.

The family of a member of Parliament must frequently sit at home on their own at night, not only because members or Ministers must sit in Parliament two or three nights a week, but also because functions must be attended frequently, often three or four nights a week. Therefore, one's wife and family are often left at home on their own.

On occasions when I have been at home and my children have been living at home also, I have not seen them for a fortnight, because I have gone to work before they have risen in the morning and

they have been in bed by the time I have returned home at night.

The general public do not realise the strain and pressure placed on the families of members of Parliament because of the nature of this job. Some people may ask, "If you had your life over again, would you do the same thing?" I guess I would, because I have enjoyed being a member of Parliament. I treat any job as a hobby and I have always worked as hard as I can and I have enjoyed what I have done. Had I not, I would not have done it. I would have got out.

On many occasions a member of Parliament attains a great deal of satisfaction from his work, but there are a great number of frustrations, and each and every one of us has experienced those.

Members referred to the sitting times of the House. The improved sitting hours indicate what can be achieved by co-operation between the Government and the Opposition. I know you, Sir, will forgive me if I breach the Standing Orders of the House by mentioning a couple of people by name rather than by their electorates. A couple of years ago it was recognised that the sitting hours were silly and something should be done about them. Colin Jamieson, Jim Clarko, Terry Burke and I got together and worked out a solution. Gradually we instituted those procedures which have resulted in much more sane and sensible sitting hours than those which previously existed.

I appreciated the work Don Taylor did in Parliament. He was a tremendously hard working member of Parliament. If a member entered the Chamber and could not see him, he had only to look behind the huge pile of papers on his desk and there he would be. Don Taylor always brought a great load of papers into the Parliament and he would work on them throughout the proceedings of the House. He is a very approachable person who is always prepared to make himself available to talk to those who need to see him.

Don Taylor is extremely courteous, and, as has been explained here today, he is a perfect gentleman. Had he been a Premier of the State he would have made a good one. He would have worked well for everyone. He is that sort of man, and I appreciated the way in which he worked.

I recollect some rather humorous occasions in Parliament and you, Sir, will forgive me if I comment on some of them. I recall the time that Arthur Moir retired because he was too old and Tom Hartrey, who was a year older, took his place! Arthur Moir was not very amused at the time.

I recall many of the quips which were made in the House. Tom Hartrey was one of the funniest

men and one of the toughest debaters I have ever seen in the House. He was always very generous. He might have been slightly advanced in years, but he had a great deal of ability which he displayed in this House.

Another fellow who had a good sense of humor and who knew how to work was Arthur Bickerton. One day he was sitting in the House about where the member for Floreat is sitting at the moment.

The member for Kimberley at the time, Jack Rhatigan, was speaking on a Bill for the sterilisation of Alsatian dogs, and he was really going crook about them, telling the Chamber how bad they were, how difficult they were to handle, how they bit people, and how the Bill should go through so that they should all be sterilised. Arthur Bickerton jumped to his feet and took a point of order, saying, "Excuse me, Mr Speaker, I believe we are attacking this problem from the wrong end. I am sure we should be extracting their teeth!" These are the sorts of things many of us have heard over a time and I am sure we could compile a book of some of the comments made in this Chamber.

I would like to make some comments on three or four points, and I will do so without wanting to be critical. What I say is meant to be constructive.

The issue of Aboriginal land rights must be defused, because if it is not, it will pit people of this State against one another and bring discredit on us overseas. I believe the issue can be and must be defused, and I hope members on both sides of the House will work together in that vein.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr O'CONNOR: We have a great deal to do in the area of employment. It is upsetting to see young people today who feel they have no future at all. Many of them see little hope for themselves when they leave school, and if they go onto the dole for three or four years, they might find themselves in a position where they do not look for much more than that. I know the answers to this problem are difficult to find, but all those members who remain in Parliament after I have left today must look at just what they can do to overcome the problem.

I did make a suggestion to the Fraser Government—which suggestion I think was eventually thrown out—which was that it should provide the unemployed with a couple of days' work a week to give them something other than just the dole. It would give them something to do and they could at least get some idea of what work was all about. We could arrange for them to clean road verges for local authorities or we could perhaps establish a 10 000-acre market garden on which they could

grow the sort of produce which could be exported to those countries which need that food. We must look to help these people so that they feel there is something for them in the future, so that they can see a light at the end of the tunnel; unfortunately, many of them do not believe there is such a light.

The America's Cup challenge series coming up is something in respect of which I do not believe a lot of people understand just what is involved and what we should do with it. I have visited the Eastern States and other countries recently, and I realised that Western Australia is gaining a tremendous amount of recognition, thanks to the magnificent efforts of Alan Bond and his crew in winning the America's Cup. I visited the United Kingdom and Europe and found that many people wanted to set up an "Australia Day" in their hotels and other venues so that they could show some of the people there what Western Australia was all about and could try to encourage people to take a charter plane out here in 1987 for that cup series. World attention has been focused on WA and we must obtain the maximum benefit from it.

We must be sure to get value from this attention, because this may be a once-only opportunity to show the people of the world that Western Australia not only is capable of winning the America's Cup, but also is capable of giving everyone who comes here an example of the good life and times we are able to provide.

Many people may not realise that 500 elimination races will precede the actual America's Cup challenge and that those elimination races will be conducted over four months. Unless we prepare, I do not believe we will be able to keep people interested in WA for all 500 of those four-hour races. I suggest we do more than provide an America's Cup challenge, and I say this bearing in mind that the Government has asked the Opposition to suggest things we consider might be able to help make a success of the challenge series.

My first suggestion is that we should commission a 30-minute film showing beautiful Perth, Rottnest and our coastline, and a bit of "Up there, Cazaly". It should include scenes of fishing at Exmouth, a rodeo and other sports, and it could finish with perhaps 10 minutes of the final race of last year's America's Cup series. Of course, it would need to be professionally prepared and it could be shown on international and interstate flights. It could also be sent to those venues overseas which would like to set up an "Australia Day" in order to entice people to Western Australia.

We ought to set up something else to complement the America's Cup elimination races

which, as I say, will be held over about four months. We should put on an "America's Cup Sporting Challenge", a mini Olympics which would run during the time of the elimination heats. It would be a real sporting challenge. I believe we in Western Australia can do it, and do it well. In Western Australia we have 331 000 people registered with sporting bodies. We could get all these people working for us, and we could get the community working for us, to make sure that those four months were the best that we have ever had in this State.

This "America's Cup Sporting Challenge" could incorporate such things as a 1 000-kilometre foot race, in which we should try to get people like Cliff Young and Joe Record to participate. It could be run down through Rockingham, Mandurah, to Bunbury and back up through Katanning to Perth. We could also hold a 1 000-kilometre cycle race that could be routed through another area—perhaps up to Geraldton—so that as many of our people as possible can participate in these events. We could hold a "de Castella Marathon" and invite him and Lopes to participate. I am talking big because we will need to retain people's interest in the State over those four months. We want people to return to their homes full of praise for Western Australia. If we leave everything just to those 500-odd elimination races and the finals, the whole thing could fall down somewhat. We could organise an around-Australia yacht race. We could have an interstate cricket competition and an international tennis tournament. We could have a superstars football round robin competition and invite Australia's two best teams to play a best-of-five series.

Mr Clarko: Who would play Claremont?

Mr O'CONNOR: I know who would barrack for them. If we got the two best teams in Australia, and selected the best from Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and South Australia, we could have them play a five-game knockout competition over a week or 10 days. People from outside Western Australia see the best in Australia. We could do the same with soccer and formula 1 racing. We could hold a special racing, trotting, and greyhound cup; in fact, I believe that may be organised already. We could hold an athletics meeting, and with elimination contests in each of our major country centres, country people would have a chance to see our sporting stars. The finals could be held in the metropolitan area. We could involve the Government, local authorities, sporting bodies, and various other organisations. We could make use of

people who had been to the Olympics—the officials, the athletes, and the sports writers.

We should take advantage of the opportunity we have before us. This opportunity has been brought about by the wonderful efforts of Alan Bond and his crew. I am not detracting from what they will do for Western Australia when I say that the 500-odd elimination races might not provide the attraction that people want. They ought to be complemented with events such as those which I have suggested.

We should also provide cultural activities and perhaps have a country and western show and invite Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, and many others. We have our own Ernie Bridge. The competition could finish with awards for the best international performer and the best Western Australian performer. Everything could culminate with a march through Perth on the Sunday after the final cup race was held with the presentation of awards on the Esplanade so that many people could see it. All this could help tremendously the tourism industry in Western Australia and it would help to bring back the people who visit here.

Finally, I would like to thank members from both sides of the House for the friendship and courtesy which they have extended to me over a long time. I met Don Taylor back in 1943. I will be leaving an old rucking mate in you, Mr Speaker, and I recall that we played in a good side some time back. I appreciated your friendship then, and I have appreciated the way you have filled your duties as Speaker of the House.

I would like to thank the electors who have kept me in Parliament for something like 25½ years. Some people may say that I ought to thank them. I do, and I appreciate their confidence in me over the years.

I say, "Thank you" to the media for the efforts of the reporters and their support in many ways. There have been times when I felt I could write an article, from my point of view, a little better, but I understand reporters have their jobs to do.

The staff of Parliament House are marvellous. I thank them for the courtesy they have extended to me; it has been second to none anywhere. I also offer my sincere appreciation to the staff who assisted me when I worked as a Minister, as Premier, as Deputy Premier, and as Leader of the Opposition. The loyalty of the staff and their efforts were appreciated very much. I say, "Thank you all".

In conclusion I say that I hope that what I have said will be considered as constructive. I certainly hope this House continues in a vein whereby par-

ties in the future will work together closely in an effort to achieve what we all want for this country. We all want to achieve the same sort of things: more affluence and more assistance for the needy in the community.

I wish to thank my family, my wife Vesna, and my children. They have had to suffer for many years because of the amount of time I have been away. I know the wives of Ministers and members suffer in that respect also.

To all members I say, "May you always put the interests of the community above your own", as I know you have done in the past.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER (Mr Harman): I want to assure the member for Mt. Lawley and the member for Cockburn that they leave this place with very best wishes for their retirement from all of the members of Parliament and all the staff of Parliament House.

Question passed by acclamation.

QUESTIONS: ON NOTICE

Closing Time

THE SPEAKER (Mr Harman): I wish to announce that questions on notice for Tuesday, 18 September, will close at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday, 13 September.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [5.11 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 18 September at 2.15 p.m.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.13 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Offices: Herb Graham House

541. Mr HASSELL, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) Further to my question 348 of 1984, which members are now housed or proposed to be housed in Herb Graham House?
- (2) How much space has been rented for each Member?
- (3) What is—
 - (a) the rental per square metre per annum;
 - (b) the cost of incomings, i.e. fitting furniture, carpets, lighting, etc;
 - (c) the cost of outgoings per annum;
 - (d) any other property related cost for each member?
- (4) What is the term of each lease and what provisions are made for—
 - (a) options to extend;
 - (b) escalation of rental;
 - (c) escalation of other costs?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (4) The information is being collated and will be forwarded directly to the member.

ABATTOIRS

Lamb Kill

551. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What quantity of lamb has been slaughtered in Western Australia since 1 June 1984?
- (2) What abattoirs have been involved in the slaughtering?
- (3) What quantity of lamb has been slaughtered by each abattoir?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) 110 000 lambs have been slaughtered in Western Australia from 1 June to 31 July 1984.
- (2) 27 abattoirs have been involved.
- (3) I am not prepared to provide information pertaining to individual private companies.

ABATTOIRS

*Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board:
Katanning*

552. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has any move been taken to endeavour to arrange for lambs to be made available through the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board for slaughter at Metro Meats Katanning works?
- (2) If "Yes", when is it expected that the first lamb kill will be available to that works?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes. Discussions have been held between the management of Metro Meats and the Lamb Marketing Board.
- (2) The commencement of lamb deliveries to Metro Meats at Katanning is dependent upon the availability of lambs in the area and commercial arrangements between the management of both organisations.

ABATTOIRS

*Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board:
Sales*

553. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board been successful in selling lamb to Eastern States recently?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) was the price received comparable to that being received by local Eastern States producers;
 - (b) what quantity of lamb was involved;
 - (c) what was the price per tonne?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) to (c) Sales to the Eastern States are confidential commercial transactions as are all sales made by the Lamb Marketing Board.

ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Condensate

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

- (1) Adverting to the reply given to question 295 on Thursday, 7 August, is it still intended that most of the condensate will be exported for refining and sale by several participants?

- (2) As consideration of the matters was being undertaken in 1982, for what reason has the final determination been delayed?
- (3) Where is the condensate becoming available now being processed and marketed?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) to (3) As indicated previously, each of the project participants is responsible for disposing of their respective shares of condensate from the project. The options available for disposal are still being examined by the companies and will be discussed with the State Government. No application has been submitted to the Commonwealth for approval to export condensate.

Sufficient quantities of condensate will not be available for shipment from the Burrup Peninsula treatment plant until towards the end of 1984.

DEFENCE: ARMY

Cadet Units: Reduction

579. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Defence Liaison:

Does the Government support the reduction from 17 to two of Western Australian Army Cadet units?

Mr BRYCE replied:

Army cadet units in this State have been reorganised. Three existing high school-based units will be fully supported—Girrawheen, North-Lake and Kwinana; these schools have been accepted by the Minister for Defence as socially and economically disadvantaged on the recommendation of the Western Australian Education Department.

The remaining 14 units may, if they so desire, continue with limited support only.

Two regional cadet units, based on Army reserve depots at Victoria Park and Karrakatta, will be set up as a new initiative. These are community rather than school-based, and are open to all young people who meet the age criteria, whether at school or not. I am advised that, dependent upon public acceptance, additional regional cadet units may be created in the future.

The Government will continue to monitor these new arrangements to check on their effectiveness.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Travel: Companions

595. Mr MacKINNON, to the Acting Premier:

What is the current State Government's policy relating to expenses and allowances being granted to companions other than wives accompanying Ministers on Government business—

- (a) within Western Australia;
(b) outside the State?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (a) and (b) The import of the member's question is not clear; however if he wishes to raise the matter with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, assistance can be given in respect of his inquiries.

SWAP MEET

Infant Jesus Primary School

603. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services:

- (1) Is it fact that a request for a swapmeet to be held at Infant Jesus Primary School in Peter Place, Morley on 9 September was rejected by his department?

- (2) Why was this application rejected?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes. The request was applicable to 9 September and 25 November 1984.
- (2) The application was referred to the retail trade advisory and control committee meeting of 14 August 1984. It was refused on the grounds that schools were adequately catered for under section 9 of the Factories and Shops Act which exempts "school fetes and bazaars".

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Small Claims Tribunal: Claims

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

When can I expect an answer from the Minister in respect of question 66 of 1984, concerning claims under the Small Claims Tribunal?

Mr TONKIN replied:

The information has been dispatched by letter to the member by the Minister for Consumer Affairs. It should be with the member shortly.

ROTTNEST ISLAND

Hotel-marina Complex: Submissions

605. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Have the four groups invited to make submissions to the Rottne Island Board on the proposed development of a hotel/marina complex on Rottne Island now completed their submissions to the board?
- (2) Did each of the invited groups make a submission?
- (3) If any group has not made a submission which group was it?
- (4) Will the board be reviewing these submissions or seeking outside assistance to review the submissions?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. Two did not and two made a joint submission.
- (3) Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and Swan Hotels Pty. Ltd.
- (4) The board will be reviewing the submissions and will co-opt whatever outside expertise and advice that it deems necessary. It will then make its recommendation to the Government.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Building Advisory Committee

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

- (1) Has the building advisory committee yet completed its review of the question of cavity walls in respect of hollow concrete block construction in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, what was the outcome of that review?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) No. The review will be completed after all responses to inquiries made in the Eastern States are received. These

replies are awaited. However, the building advisory committee will discuss progress on the review at its meeting tomorrow.

(2) See (1).

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Hospitality Industry

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

What action, if any, has the Government taken to set up employment and training programmes for the hospitality industry?

Mr PEARCE replied:

The WA Government is undertaking a range of initiatives relating to employment and training within the hospitality industry.

Specifically, my Department of Employment and Training is currently undertaking an assessment of the adequacy of training in the hospitality industry, and a report on this matter is expected to be completed and made available towards the end of this year. The Department of Employment and Training is also a member of the WA Tourism industry training committee.

The member is no doubt aware of activities such as the WA Tourist Commission study on human resource planning in the WA tourism industry, and the project being undertaken with the co-operation of the Hospitality West Association of WA (Inc.) involving a survey of the hospitality industry.

In addition, the TAFE division of the WA Department of Education offers a range of programmes for the hospitality industry.

HOUSING

Maintenance: Expenditure

608. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

How much did the State Housing Commission spend on its maintenance programme for the years ended—

- (a) 30 June 1981;
- (b) 30 June 1982;
- (c) 30 June 1983;
- (d) 30 June 1984?

Mr WILSON replied:

The State Housing Commission spent the following funds on its maintenance programme for the years indicated below—

	Common- wealth/ State	Aboriginal
	\$ Million	\$ Million
(a) 30 June 1981	11.076	0.798
(b) 30 June 1982	13.901	1.093
(c) 30 June 1983	16.485	1.111
(d) 30 June 1984	17.585	1.364

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Relief Cleaners: Employment Policy

609. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Government's employment policies relating to relief cleaners at high schools changed in any way in recent times?
- (2) If so, in what way has the policy changed?

Mr PEARCE replied:

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

TOURISM: BUSES

Perth-York

610. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What restrictions and controls exist in relation to tour bus operations from Perth to York and surrounding districts?
- (2) Is it fact that only one tour operator is permitted to take tourists to York on bus tours?
- (3) If not, what is the arrangement?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) It has been policy for many years to control the number of operators in the tour coach industry, primarily to ensure a high standard of coach and adequacy of service to the touring public is maintained.

I am aware that the Commissioner of Transport is currently reviewing tour coach licensing policy with the view to ensuring it is flexible enough to respond to the changing demands of the tourist industry.

In relation to York, I am advised that the Deputy Commissioner of Transport, together with representatives of the Tourism Commission, met recently with the York tourist industry and coach operators to discuss the general tour coach policy as it relates to York. I understand that the outcome of that meeting was that the existing coach operator, and the York tourist industry were to have further discussions with a view to joint promotions of the York region.

- (2) Only one operator is licensed to operate tours between Perth and York, but two other operators feature York in their extended tours to other destinations.
- (3) Answered by (2).

WATER RESOURCES: IRRIGATION

Kent Street Weir

611. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) (a) Do all landowners fronting the Canning River upstream from the Kent Street weir pay for water drawn from the river;
(b) if so, on what basis?
- (2) What was the total income from this source on each of the last five financial years?
- (3) What has been the maintenance cost of the Kent Street weir during each of the last five financial years?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) (a) No.
(b) Landowners who have riparian rights can draw water from the Canning River provided the water is for domestic and stock purposes only.

Landowners who wish to divert water for other uses are required to be licensed under section 16 of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act. The licence fee was \$35 in 1983-84.

- (2) The total income from this source over the past five financial years is as follows—

Period	Total Income
1979-80	\$2 430
1980-81	\$2 145
1981-82	\$5 000

1982-83	\$5 000
1983-84	\$4 760

- (3) The cost of maintenance of the Kent Street Weir is included with maintenance of the Canning River upstream of the structure. Costs are not kept separately but the majority of work under this item is done on the structure with only minor amounts being spent annually on desnagging and clearing of the river. Total field expenditure for the last five years has been as follows—

Year	Expenditure
1979-80	\$6 752
1980-81	\$6 404
1981-82	\$6 122
1982-83	\$8 165
1983-84	\$8 431

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Bentley

612. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) When the Bentley Hospital is fully developed is it intended that Mills Street will be closed to through traffic?
- (2) When is it anticipated that the geriatric section will be fully functional?
- (3) What other additions are now contemplated to complete the complex?
- (4) When can it be anticipated that resident medical practitioners will be employed at the complex?
- (5) What is the total size of the area of the Bentley Hospital complex?
- (6) Is it anticipated that this area will need to be increased for future developments?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) The local council has agreed to the closure of Mill Street providing a new road is constructed to the north of the current hospital complex. This proposal is currently being assessed by the private consultant.
- (2) It is intended that the psychogeriatric unit will be fully functional by December 1984.
- (3) Currently work is proceeding on construction of the joint geriatric and psychogeriatric assessment unit.
The specified completion date is 25 July 1985.

In regard to further additions, the master plan for this hospital site is still being assessed by the private consultant.

- (4) This matter is currently under consideration.
- (5) 6.37 hectares.
- (6) No.

AGRICULTURE

Noxious Weed: Caltrop

613. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware of the expressed concern of many shire councils to the Agriculture Protection Board, of the prevalence and spreading of the weed Caltrop in the agricultural areas?
- (2) How many councils have requested that Caltrop be a declared plant under section 35 (1) of the Act?
- (3) What action is the Government proposing to take on this matter?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Nine recently.
- (3) The Agriculture Protection Board's weeds committee will consider the requests and advise the board. With previous requests, the board has considered Caltrop should be prescribed as a "pest plant" by a local authority if legislative backing for control is needed. Pest plant legislation is administered by local authorities.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

Dredging: Port Hedland

614. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Have representatives of Australia's maritime unions sought to ensure that their members man a dredge in work at Port Hedland Harbour?
- (2) Was such a demand agreed by the contractor involved?
- (3) Does the Government support such demand?
- (4) If such a demand is implemented, what additional costs will be involved in undertaking the dredging work involved?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) No. The Australian Workers' Union and the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers have served separate logs of claims to rope in the contractor to the existing Federal awards.
- (2) to (4) Not applicable; see (1).

WATER RESOURCES

Yandoo Creek Scheme

615. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has the Public Works Department done any study on the offstream storage proposal at Carnarvon, known as the Yandoo Creek scheme?
- (2) If so, what is the result of those studies?
- (3) Will the State Government seek assistance from the Federal Government for funds to complete a feasibility study on this scheme?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) The Public Works Department has recently completed a study of the Yandoo Creek scheme near Carnarvon and its findings are included in the report "Gascoyne Irrigation—Evaluation of Yandoo Creek Scheme", which I hereby table.
- (2) In general terms this report indicates that significant flows occur in Yandoo Creek when the Gascoyne River is not running. The diversion of this water into the Gascoyne could increase the availability of water for irrigation by between 20 per cent and 50 per cent at a cost of approximately \$4 million.
- (3) I am concerned that the existing irrigation scheme is running at an annual loss of approximately \$1.35 million and that water charges meet less than half of this scheme's costs of operation and maintenance. Unless the water charges can be increased significantly, it will be extremely difficult to justify any further capital expenditure on the upgrading of the scheme.

I believe that before any further engineering studies are undertaken, it is essential that economic implications of the

Yandoo Creek proposal are carefully considered. I have asked the Minister for Agriculture for advice on this matter.

The report was tabled (see paper No. 116).

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

"WA Government Notes"

616. Mr MENSAROS, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) How many yearly subscriptions of the *Western Australian Government Notes* has his department been able to sell so far?
- (2) What is the cost of the yearly subscription?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Subscription forms were sent out with the edition of *The West Australian* "Government Notes" dated 25 July 1984.

To date 142 subscriptions have been received with payment for the subscription.

- (2) The cost of an annual subscription is \$25.

CONSTITUTIONAL LINKS

Negotiations: Federal Government

617. Mr MENSAROS, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) Adverting to questions 73 and 1952 of 1983, relating to contact between the Monarch and Australian States, could he give information whether the negotiations have yet concluded with the Commonwealth Government, and if so, with what results?
- (2) Could he also say whether his Government favours the Commonwealth Government's "one Australian point of contact only" policy or the prevailing protocol where the State Government and particularly the Premier has direct access to Her Majesty?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Considerable progress has been made, but negotiations are still to be finalised between the States and the Commonwealth.
- (2) The prevailing protocol is favoured.

ENVIRONMENT

Algae and Pollution Tests

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

Could he please spell out the Government's:

(a) short-term;

(b) long-term,

policy about conducting various pollution and algae tests and facilitating necessary exchange of oxygen rich water in the Murray/Serpentine River and Peel Inlet/Harvey Estuary system?

Mr DAVIES replied:

The Government through the Waterways Commission and the Department of Conservation and Environment is conducting a comprehensive water quality monitoring programme of the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary and the Murray, Serpentine and Harvey Rivers and associated agricultural drains.

The programme includes weekly to bi-weekly monitoring in the estuary of—

the key plant nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus;

levels of dissolved oxygen in the water;

salinity;

temperature;

light; and

chlorophyll—indicates level of microscopic algae in the water.

In addition a broad-scale survey of the amount and distribution of algae in the estuary is conducted every 3 months.

Higher intensity sampling takes place during the peak of the *Nodularia*—blue-green algae—blooms in spring and summer.

The major rivers and drains are monitored for flow and discharge rates of phosphorus and nitrogen into the estuary.

The policy for the above programme will continue for at least the next three years and probably much longer to monitor the health of the estuary and to determine how it responds to management measures which will be implemented to help overcome the serious problem of algae growth and accumulation in the estuary. These measures will also relieve

any problems of deoxygenation of bottom waters which can take place during periods of stagnation when large amounts of algae are rotting.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Referrals

619. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Can the Attorney General list the matters given by him and/or his predecessor to the Law Reform Commission for study and report in the order of his nominated priorities since he took office?

Mr GRILL replied:

The following matters—not in any order—have been listed for priority consideration by the commission—

Local courts (project No. 16 pt. I);

administrative decisions: judicial review (project No. 26 pt. II);

grants of probate (project No. 34 pt. IV);

limitation of actions (project No. 36 pt. II);

alteration of ground levels (project No. 44);

Justices Act (project No. 55 pt. II);

privacy (project No. 65); and,

problem of old convictions (project No. 80).

PORTS AND HARBOURS: DREDGING

Harvey Estuary and Peel Inlet

620. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

(1) What locations for the proposed dredging for 1984 in the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary have already been completed?

(2) What locations are still going to be dredged this year?

Mr McIVER replied:

(1) Stick's Channel and Murray River entrance channel.

(2) (a) Serpentine River entrance channel—currently in progress;

(b) minor dredging at entrance to Mary Street lagoon and Ormsby Terrace lagoon.

PLANNING: MRPA*Chairmen: Salaries*

621. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What are the respective salaries of the retiring and just-appointed Chairman of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority?
- (2) What is the difference, if any, between their duties?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) \$60 336. However, because of the current reduction in salaries of senior staff of the Public Service, Mr Wilkins' current salary is \$55 091. This will revert to \$60 336 from 1 September 1984.
- (2) Nil.

MINERALS*Risk Capital: Review*

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

Could he please say whether the 18-month old review pertaining to pre-election undertaking and being the subject of questions 660 and 1990 of 1983, has yet been concluded and what concrete steps by the Government resulted from it?

Mr PARKER replied:

I refer the member for Floreat to my reply to question 3338.

WATER RESOURCES*Review*

623. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has the study referred to in the second paragraph of his reply (1) to question 2307 of 1984, been completed yet by the Western Australian Water Resources Council?
- (2) If so, will he please table a copy?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. A copy of the report No. 1 entitled "Water Resources and Water Use" is hereby tabled.

The report was tabled (see paper No. 117).

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET*Accommodation: City Mutual Tower*

624. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Would he have the cost figures pertaining to the overall cost to prepare the office space for the Premier and the Department of Premier and Cabinet at the City Mutual Tower, including alterations to the building, additions, furniture etc. and the division of these costs between the lessor and the Government, which were referred to in question 2554, parts (1) and (2) of 1984 already available and could he please disclose them?

Mr McIVER replied:

Work is still continuing and the member will be advised in due course.

SEWERAGE*Commonwealth Funding*

625. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Adverting to his reply to question 2660 of 1984, is he now in a position to say whether applications have been made to the Commonwealth Government regarding finance for any sewerage works and especially backlog sewerage, and if so, describe the nature of the application, and if available, its result?

Mr TONKIN replied:

Inquiries have indicated that no specific Commonwealth financial assistance for infill sewerage works is to be made available in 1984-85.

ENVIRONMENT: ERMP*North Dandalup River*

626. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has the environment review and management programme been prepared by the Metropolitan Water Authority regarding a major surface reservoir on the North Dunderup River been completed yet?
- (2) If so, when is it going to be published for comments?
- (3) If answer to (1) is "No", when is it expected to be completed?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (3) It is assumed that the member is referring to the North Dandalup River. In this case the answer is provided in my reply to his question 3151 of 2 May 1984.

WATER RESOURCES

Consumption: Metering

627. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Adverting to his reply to part (3) of question 2777 of 1984, could he now say whether a policy regarding 100 per cent metering of water consumption has yet been decided upon?

Mr TONKIN replied:

There is no change to the answer given in part (2) of question 2777.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Employment: Funding

173. Mr HASSELL, to the Acting Premier:

In his 'Political Notes' column in *The West Australian* this morning, the Acting Premier said, "There is no single issue more vital than the creation of jobs ..." and "Therefore we welcome the 40 per cent jump in the Federal contribution to community employment programme activities ...". I ask—

- (1) Is the Acting Premier aware that while the Commonwealth Government's total revenue rose by 17.7 per cent, its expenditure on employment rose by only 5.8 per cent?
- (2) Is he also aware that within that niggardly 5.8 per cent increase, was a 14.7 per cent increase in the cost of administration, and that the increase in expenditure of direct benefit to the unemployed through the creation of employment, training and retraining was only 3.4 per cent?
- (3) Is he aware also that while CEP funds rose by \$125.2 million, an amount of \$147.5 million from wages pause funds is no longer available to create employment, and that as a result the combined funds

available to create jobs from CEP and wages pause funds is down in actual dollars by 5 per cent, or about 14 per cent in real terms?

- (4) Is he further aware that in the last 12 months the mean duration of unemployment blew out from 38.8 weeks to 44.6 weeks and that the median duration of unemployment increased from 24 weeks to 25 weeks?

- (5) In view of all of these facts, which are readily available from the Budget papers, will he tell the House why he and the State Government deliberately helped to propagate the Commonwealth's deception about the amount of money it has allocated for job creation for the unemployed?

Mr BRYCE, replied:

- (1) to (5) I find it difficult to understand why the Leader of the Opposition has missed the true point about unemployment, or more particularly employment generation in this community. There is no doubt that as far as Western Australia is concerned, in this Budget there will be a 40 per cent increase in the funding available for CEP programmes. What the Leader of the Opposition has conveniently forgotten, since he has been in Opposition, is that the real answer to unemployment problems, which was contained in this Budget, is the prospect of economic recovery.

To quote the Leader of the Opposition, and to return his words to him, jobs will be created in the private sector. As far as the Budget strategy is concerned—

Mr Hassell interjected.

Mr BRYCE: —the real essence is to ensure that—now that the solution has been achieved—the process of recovery continues. Inflation has been brought under control, and confidence is being restored in that people are prepared to take risks and make investments to get the private sector moving again. Therein lies the true solution to the employment problems which have plagued this nation for the last five or six years.

What members opposite seem to find difficult to understand and accept is that the true answer to employment and unemployment problems is the basic strat-

egy in the national Budget, which has been to aid and abet economic recovery. The most objective academics and businessmen in this country will insist that was precisely what the strategy was and they agree with it. Let us all be aware of the fact that that is exactly what will be achieved.

ACTS AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS) BILL

Employers: Reaction

174. Mr READ, to the Acting Premier:

Has the Government received any feedback on employer reaction to the new industrial relations Bill introduced into another place last night?

Mr Tonkin (for Mr BRYCE), replied:

On behalf of the Acting Premier, who fears his voice may not last out this afternoon: The Acting Premier has received a telex which he understands is a Press release from the Confederation of WA Industry (Inc.) which reads as follows—

The Confederation of WA Industry has described the State Government's re-write of its industrial arbitration Bill as a victory for commonsense.

The Bill, which was re-introduced into State Parliament last night, now includes all but one of the provisions sought by employers before it was rejected by the Legislative Council earlier this year.

At the time, the confederation said the Government's move was unfair, unreasonable and posed great dangers to the traditional employer-employee relationship.

Today, the Confederation's labour relations director, Mr Bill Brown, congratulated the Government for accepting changes to the legislation.

"Following the rejection of the Bill by the upper House, there was a lot of hard bargaining between members of the tripartite industrial relations committee.

The Confederation has been pleased to make a sound contribution to the committee which was able to take a constructive approach to its task.

The Government deserves praise for adopting the recommendations of the committee and presenting the Bill to Parliament in a vastly different form.

Parts of the old Bill which would have changed the definition of an employee have been eliminated.

Likewise, the provision to give the Industrial Commission power to declare contracts void, has been dropped.

At the same time, penal provisions against unions have been reinstated in the new Bill.

This outcome substantiates the strong stand taken by the Opposition earlier this year when large meetings of employers voiced criticism of the legislation.

Overall, it has been a victory for commonsense and the Government deserves the credit," said Mr Brown.

LIQUOR: PORT

Auction

175. Mr SPRIGGS, to the Acting Premier:

(1) Does he believe that the 10 per cent sales tax on wine imposed by the Commonwealth Government would be the reason that, at a football function last night, bottled port labelled and named after Premier Burke and Prime Minister Hawke could not raise a bid while port labelled after prominent footballers brought vigorous bids of up to \$50?

(2) If not, would he accept that media reports on the popularity of both gentlemen are misleading, particularly in the Swan Districts football zone?

Mr BRYCE replied:

(1) and (2) I can only imagine that this is a case of eminently bad judgment and poor taste.

ELECTORAL: ROLLS

Presentation

176. Mrs BUCHANAN, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

Has any action been taken to improve the standard of presentation of printed State electoral rolls?

Mr TONKIN replied:

I thank the member for adequate notice of the question. I am pleased to say that an examination has been made and action is now in hand to produce a roll of superior presentation. As most members would be aware, the rolls at present have a cluttered appearance and thus have been generally difficult to read. In future, there will be a reduction in the number of entries on a page from 200 to 150, and the format of each entry will be considerably enhanced.

I have had a look at this new printing and it is a big improvement. This will give us attractive and more easily read rolls which will be of considerable benefit to users. The rolls naturally will be 25 per cent larger but this will not be of significant adverse effect. I am hopeful that the changes will be effected in time for use at the forthcoming by-elections.

TRANSPORT: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: Sale

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

My question follows one I asked some time ago regarding Westrail and the Government's apparent refusal to allow Westrail to sell its share of Total West. I ask—

- (1) Has the Government made any decision recently affecting the future of Total West; and, if so, what is it and what would be the result?
- (2) Has any other party involved in Total West made a decision as to its future; and, if so, what is the decision and what would be the result of that?

I ask these questions in the light of rumours that Total West is bankrupt and about to finish.

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) It is very surprising that such a negative statement should come from the member from Narrogin.

Mr Peter Jones: It is not negative, it is asking a question.

Mr GRILL: The member is repeating completely untrue and fallacious rumours.

Mr Peter Jones: We are giving you a chance to crush them.

Mr GRILL: Does the member want me to answer the question?

Mr Peter Jones: Yes.

Mr GRILL: The future of Total West has never looked brighter. It is unlikely that there will be any change in its structure. It has been trading perhaps not as well as it could have over the last year or so. Of late, its trading figures—

Mr Spriggs: It is a much needed organisation formed by the previous Government and it has done a wonderful job.

Mr GRILL: —have been much more heartening. It has gone through some rationalisations which have been partly traumatic. Any rationalisation which reduces the number of agents and outlets will be traumatic, but this has been carried out in a fairly commercial way and has proved successful.

Total West is operating close to a break-even point, and slightly better in some respects, as I understand it. Its prospects look very good indeed. To answer the first part of the question, no Government decision has been made which will change its share structure. No other share capital has been introduced which will significantly affect—or in any way affect—its present structure.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Herb Graham House: Rezoning

178. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Housing:

In answer to question 30 in another place, concerning the arrangements under which the ALP purchased land from the State Housing Commission for what is now Herb Graham House, the Minister for Planning said he was unable to say whether he would consider any arrangement in relation to rezoning of the land "because I do not know the terms of any agreement reached with the previous Government". I now ask—

- (1) Will the Minister inform the Minister for Planning of the details of that arrangement between the previous Government and the ALP so that he can consider it?
- (2) Will the Minister inform the City of Stirling of the details of the arrangement and any undertakings

given by or on behalf of the ALP in relation to Herb Graham House so that Stirling City Council may be fully informed when it is deliberating on any application for rezoning?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) and (2) If the Minister for Planning or the City of Stirling requests that information I will consider their request.

Mr MacKinnon: Weak as water!

ECONOMY

Recovery: Non-metropolitan Area

179. Mr D. L. SMITH, to the Minister for Regional Development and the North West:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the impact of the economic recovery on industry outside the metropolitan area?
- (2) Can he outline the State Government's contribution to this important process?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has assumed a particularly active stance concerning regional economic development.

One of the early actions taken after we assumed office was the creation of the South West Development Authority to implement our "Bunbury 2000" concept. In particular, the member would be aware that a report has already been completed aimed at enhancing the south-west region's tourism industry.

Similarly, the Premier recently announced the "Albany Tomorrow" project and already a Cabinet subcommittee and a strategy group have been created to develop policy initiatives for the great southern region and a great southern regional economic study is under way.

In other areas we have completed and presented economic development studies covering Carnarvon and Manjimup and further work is under way on an economic study of Norseman.

In the resource development arena, there are strong indications that the Government's active pursuit and promotion of new development in iron ore, aluminium smelting and the export phase of the North-West shelf gas project are bearing fruit. Members should be well aware of recent announcements on these projects.

Concerning particular industries which have received financial assistance—

Capital establishment grants have been provided to—

	\$
Sun City Poultry Processors of Geraldton	6 600
Pynline Pty. Ltd. of Albany	18 500
Regional industry expansion grants have been provided to—	

	\$
South East Hydraulics of Esperance	14 875
W. R. & J. M. Withers trading as "Troppo-Bars" of Kununurra	16 000
Bunbury Clothing Manufacturers of Bunbury	4 500
Cyclamen Fish Marketing of Denham	9 400
M. A. Jensen Timber Products of Busselton	7 500
G.L.F. Industries of Cunderdin	9 360
Capel Dairy Co. of Capel	18 750
Parkfeeds of Dalwallinu	20 900
Ord River Cold Stores of Kununurra	20 000

Major industries assisted include Hunts Foods of Albany by way of a \$2.8 million Government guarantee and, of course, a new five-year support programme has been put in place to assist the Manjimup Cannery. Special General Loan Fund assistance has also been provided to the Esperance Fisherman's Co-op.

HORTICULTURE

Cashews

180. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

My question refers to a statement made during question time yesterday regarding a cashew nut industry which is to be started on the Ord River. I commend the Government on its initiative of starting the industry because it will help the Ord tremendously. I ask—

- (1) Were Australian submissions considered as well as the one from Singapore?

- (2) If so, were they given the same consideration as the Singaporean submission?
- (3) Were they given access to the same information; that is, the name of other competitors?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) Four submissions were received and each was treated on its merits. It was considered that Twentieth Century Foods was the most suitable and apparently the most capable organisation to develop such a project.

To the best of my knowledge each submission was treated in the same way. I am certain that there would have been no distinction in the treatment of submissions, but if the member for Katanning-Roe has any specific query or knows of any incident I will follow it up.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Stewarts Pest Control

181. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the Minister received complaints that Stewarts Pest Control company has advised people who have supposedly had their rafters sprayed for termites that they also have rats in the ceiling and should take further action to have the ceiling treated by the firm?
- (2) What would the Minister advise people to do in these circumstances?

Mr TONKIN replied:

I thank the member for adequate notice of the question which I answer on behalf of the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

- (1) I am informed that a number of verbal complaints have been made recently to the Department of Consumer Affairs that an operator or operators from this firm have emerged from under-roof inspections carrying rat-droppings purportedly found in ceiling areas.
- (2) The presence of rats is usually indicated by other signs such as loud scuffling noises. In any event the householder is easily able to deal with the problem by the placement of suitable baits rather than by paying an expensive fee to a pest control operator. Because a pattern of

very similar complaints has emerged consumers should notify the Department of Consumer Affairs of allegations of rat infestations made by this firm so that examination of ceiling areas can be made by qualified people.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Herb Graham House: Land Sale

182. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will the Minister table in the House the brochure produced by the State Housing Commission to advertise the sale of the land now occupied by Herb Graham House?
- (2) If not, will the Minister explain why he will not table a document which is clearly a public document and which clearly does not breach anyone's confidentiality?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) and (2) I will consult with the State Housing Commission and make a decision in regard to that question.

LOTTERIES: COMMISSION

Operations

183. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of recent criticism of certain operations of the Lotteries Commission by the WA Council of Social Service Inc.?
- (2) In the light of this criticism, and that which was expressed by the Select Committee into Alcohol and Other Drugs on page 64 of its report, will the Minister undertake to review the present legislation governing the operations of the Lotteries Commission?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question to the Minister responsible and I reply on his behalf.

- (1) and (2) Yes. The Western Australian Council of Social Services wrote to the Minister for Administrative Services in September expressing its concern. The Minister replied on 28 March 1984.

Generally, the Minister stated that he was satisfied with the operations of the Lotteries Commission which benefit a large cross-section of the community.

The Minister subsequently met with the Minister for Youth and Community Services to discuss the views expressed by WACOSS.

Consideration is being given to the establishment of a working party consisting of departmental officers of both Ministers, the Lotteries Commission and WACOSS to review the suggestions put forward.

TRADE: EXPORTS

Assistance

184. Mr MacKINNON, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) Does the Acting Premier support the decision of the Federal Government to reduce assistance to the export industry by 22.6 per cent for 1984-85?
- (2) If he does not, what action does he intend to take in order to take up this issue with the Federal Government?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The member will be supplied with a copy of the information within the next couple of weeks.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

Marina: Fremantle

185. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

Would the Minister please indicate to the House what progress has been made with respect to the proposed development of a marina facility adjacent to the Fremantle fishing boat harbour?

Mr GRILL replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question and for the opportunity to acquaint the House of the current position on this matter.

A \$172 678 contract for a rubble mound breakwater in the Fremantle fishing boat harbour has provided one of the first tangible signs of preparations for the America's Cup.

The contract—which went to the Italia Limestone Co., and WA Limestone Co.—would provide a land-backed wharf and a protected water area for six syndicate pens in the northern corner of the fishing boat harbour and when I visited the site last week, was well advanced.

A \$1.7 million contract for the construction of breakwaters for the America's Cup marina at Fremantle was let recently to the WA Limestone Company and the Italia Limestone Co., which beat seven other tenderers for the job.

The two breakwaters to be built will have a total length of 943 metres and will be constructed on the northern and western sides of the Fremantle fishing boat harbour.

They will comprise an extension of the existing northern breakwater and a new breakwater to seaward which together would provide protected water for 10 syndicate sites for the America's Cup challenge series as well as an area for the Royal Perth Yacht Club.

The contract involves the transport of some 200 000 tonnes of limestone and granite.

I understand work commenced this week and will be completed by May next year.

The access route for trucks carting the stone will be along Douro Road, Marine Terrace and Mews Road and will be limited to the period 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. from Mondays to Saturdays inclusive.

This route had been selected in consultation with the Fremantle City Council to minimise inconvenience to Fremantle people.

It is hoped that those living along the route will understand the project's importance to both the State and the City of Fremantle.

TRADE

Private Sector

186. Mr COURT, to the Acting Premier:

Does the Acting Premier believe that the existing private sector trading organisation adequately services the Australian trade needs?

Mr BRYCE replied:

Being the Acting Premier I presume I am responsible for almost everything

associated with trade. However, trade is a Federal Government matter.

I think that what the member for Nedlands is getting at, in a slightly devious fashion, is a second crack at a question he had on the Notice Paper either yesterday or today concerning the role of the South East Asia Marketing Corporation.

At the time of the last election the Labor Party presented an undertaking to the people of this State that if it were elected to office it would establish the South East Asia Marketing Corporation and that is what the Government intends to do.

A great deal of work has been done on the development of a trading house model for that purpose and I know that members opposite, when they see the shroud of secrecy removed from that model in the next month or so, will be delighted to see the entrepreneurial base that will be incorporated into the structure.

I can assure members it will stand Western Australia in good stead for a long period. In that sense there is a vacuum which needs filling in certain areas of trade with other parts of the world, particularly South-East Asia.

MINERALS

Resources Development

187. Mr BRIDGE, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

In view of the importance of resources development in Western Australia, is the Minister able to advise the House of the impact of the Federal Budget on this sector?

Mr PARKER replied:

Yes. As has been rightly claimed by the member, generally this Budget is very good for industry, and in particular it is good for industries involved in mining and resource development and in mineral processing.

There can be no doubt that the various provisions in the Budget for this have been of great assistance, but in the following represent the key advances: The indexation of the diesel fuel levy which has been campaigned for by the mining

industry has been achieved in this Budget. The new non-residential depreciation allowance, which goes from 2.5 per cent to four per cent per annum, allowing buildings to be depreciated over 25 years rather than over 40 years, is a major achievement for business generally, and in particular for the sort of business which requires major capital investment, such as resource development.

There will be increases in zone tax rebates for those areas represented by the member for Kimberley and the member for Pilbara. The 25 per cent increase in the rebates is obviously of major benefit for the work force in those areas, which hopefully will lessen wage and other cost pressures in the area and ensure stability for resource development industries and extractive industries in the areas covered by the concessions. These were asked for before but never granted. I can remember people asking for tax rebates for as long as I have been involved in politics. Both sides of the Chamber of this House and the Federal House were involved. This is the first Government, certainly in the 12 years that I can remember, which has ever honoured them.

We have a substantial increase in the zone tax. I think, because of the better level of representation. In the Pilbara and Kimberley areas and the Federal electorate of Kalgoorlie in the last few years, the level of representation has increased dramatically.

Several members interjected.

Mr PARKER: The taxation concessions which allow companies with different business interests and wholly-owned subsidiaries to transfer profits and losses between those subsidiaries will have a major impact on various companies such as BHP and so on which are in the same situation as many mineral houses. The offsetting of mineral exploitation costs against non-mining income is again something for which the mining sector has been campaigning for many years, and it will have a major impact on exploration in the State.

Finally, and most importantly, the extension to 30 June 1987 of the special investment allowance—in other words, a 12-months' extension—has had a major impact. I am sure it will have a major

impact. It was called for by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Australian Industry and by many people associated with the resources sector. It will assist particularly in view of the proposal by the Chinese Government and Hamersley

Iron, together with various other developments, including further processing of mineral sands. There is a potential for the further processing of iron in the Pilbara. This is a major boost for the resource sector, and for the mineral processing industry.
