

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 24 March 1982

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

EDUCATION: LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Speech Therapy: Petition

MR WILSON (Dianella) [2.17 p.m.]: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia. It reads—

We the undersigned citizens of Western Australia deplore the critical lack of facilities and services available to children with speech and language problems.

This critical situation is clearly evident in the long waiting periods involved, in some cases up to 10 months, before young children may expect to be treated for such problems, which can have irreversible adverse effects on their emotional, social, and educational development.

We call on the Government to give full recognition to this critical community need in the coming budget by:—

1. Increasing the number of positions for speech pathologists,
2. Providing more decentralised speech therapy services.
3. Introducing speech therapy within the Education Department.

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

The petition bears 2 445 signatures and I have certified that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No. 3.)

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Supreme Court Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Rushton (Deputy Premier), and read a first time.

2. Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

3. Racing, Trotting and Greyhound Racing Appeal Tribunal Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Bateman, and read a first time.

4. Equal Opportunity Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Pearce, and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 23 March.

MR McIVER (Avon) [2.24 p.m.]: It is my intention to utilise the time allocated to me to highlight various issues that are of concern, not only to me, but also to my constituents and to the people of Western Australia. Firstly I refer to the situation that companies who face the high risk capital, due perhaps to the non-co-operation they show to the Government, to the people they employ, and to the community.

It is time the Government introduced legislation to make it imperative for such companies to liaise with various Government departments in relation to this aspect. To be more specific I refer to the recently retrenched workers employed by Agnew Clough Ltd. at Wundowie Iron & Steel. This company has spent several million dollars on the vanadium venture. I say without hesitation that in this instance not enough thought or expertise was made available by the company.

Consequently we saw the disaster not only of the retrenchment of workers but also of the whole town of Wundowie becoming redundant overnight. It must be remembered that during the time of the build-up, when the town and the industry was controlled by the Government of the day—the industry has since been handed over to private enterprise—there were always requests for houses to be constructed in that area. The Government responded to the requests, and we are now faced with the situation where there are many empty houses in Wundowie. This in itself presents a terrific social problem. The State Housing Commission is unable to leave houses empty because of the high demand for State housing and the only way in which it can meet the demand is to make the houses at Wundowie available to unmarried mothers, separated families and single parent families, despite the fact that they may not wish to reside in that area.

If liaison between the company and the Government had commenced in the early stages of development this situation may not have arisen. Despite the efforts of the company to be viable and because of the marketing situation, both nationally and internationally, it was inevitable that the company would fold. I believe the Government should insist that the directors of such companies, irrespective of who they may be, have an obligation to the Government of the day to liaise and point out the facts regarding redundancy in the work force. I sincerely trust that Wundowie is not going to be a dumping ground for the people I have mentioned.

As members will recall Collie experienced a similar situation, when the Government in its stupidity converted the Kwinana power station to oil and, as a result, the production of coal at Collie decreased. Families were placed in a situation where they had to leave the region and State Housing Commission homes became available and were rented to the type of tenants to whom I have referred.

I do not think criticism can be made of the State Housing Commission in this regard because it is in a cleft stick position—it has the houses to allocate and it has this type of low-income earner to whom it must allocate the houses.

I believe this problem can be overcome if a decision is made for the company to liaise with the various departments such as the SHC and the Department for Community Welfare. The company is concerned with its own problems, but it must realise that if it were not for the Government of the day, it could not operate in that area.

Finally, I would like to point out to the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce that it is the foundry that is making the operation viable for the moment. If the Government is as sincere about decentralisation as it purports to be, it should give Government contracts to the Wundowie foundry so that the few remaining employees may be kept at work. I remind members that the foundry employs men and women.

This particular region does not offer many employment opportunities for school leavers. Certainly there are the abattoirs, but they employ only small numbers and then usually skilled personnel. So the closure of this enterprise also will mean the closure of an avenue of employment. Of course, we cannot expect a company to pour millions of dollars down the drain without the hope of any profit. It is a

monumental problem, and one to which I believe the Government was oblivious until recently.

The proposed closure of this operation has placed great pressure on the Government departments which will have the problem of resolving the various social issues which will arise. It is a problem which is of grave concern to me as the representative of the area, and one which is also of grave concern to the local authority because of the financial dependence of the town on this operation. It is up to the Government to ensure that the company advises the local people about what will happen in the future.

I am well aware that the Government cannot tell private companies what to do. However, when the Government enters into contracts to set up industries, provisos must be written in to advise the Government immediately if such problems arise. The companies must be obliged to liaise with the Government departments to try to minimise the social problems.

Mr P. V. Jones: I think it is fair to say in this particular case the company has done that over a period of time. As you may be aware, I am not in any way diminishing the problem. It is only fair to place on record that not only did the company do that, but also the Government has been trying to assist the company. Indeed, I went to Melbourne to have discussions to try to bring another company in to take over so that the operation could be kept going. Talks are still continuing, but as yet they have been fruitless.

Mr McIVER: I am well aware of that, and I am sure the people of the area are very appreciative of the Minister's efforts. When I refer to the Government, I am not meaning only the Government at Cabinet level; I am referring also to the respective departments because of the social implications of the closure.

Mr P. V. Jones: Quite right.

Mr McIVER: There are other complexes in the town such as a large school, a club, and a shopping centre. The capital outlay amounts to millions of dollars. If there is a complete shutdown, these facilities will be worthless.

The company has said that by December it will enter into a new venture in relation to the treatment of silicone sands.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is right.

Mr McIVER: I can say quite categorically that that is a myth. Firstly, the company would not have the capital for such a venture, and secondly, it does not have the expertise at this stage—and I remind members of the vanadium venture. Thirdly, I do not think the company knows

enough about what it would be getting into. As I understand it, the company has not been able to find anyone to support it in what would be a high risk venture.

Mr P. V. Jones: I do not think you are entirely wrong in your comments, except that the whole point of the discussion was to bring in the people who do have the technological experience and the capital to provide those things which you are suggesting Agnew Clough Ltd. does not have.

Mr McIVER: At the moment the situation is that some employees have taken redundancy pay, some have taken annual leave and long service leave, and some are simply waiting and hoping that this project will eventuate. I believe the company has an obligation to the Government and to the people of the area to tell the people what will happen. The residents should not be kept in the dark as is happening at present. They must be told. This company had a very reliable work force, and the people remaining in the area are very uncertain about the future. The morale of the people is extremely low. The Government should pressure Agnew Clough Ltd. into giving a decision.

Very shortly the same situation will arise in the Kwinana area. My understanding is that when Australian Iron and Steel Pty. Ltd. closes down, 700 workers will be made redundant. This closure will be followed by the closure of the BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty. Ltd. which I understand employs several hundred people. The social effects on the Kwinana area will be even greater than the social effects at Wundowie.

Mr MacKinnon: Are you saying that BP Refinery is going to close?

Mr McIVER: As I understand it, BP Refinery will close soon after AIS.

Mr P. V. Jones: Do you mean the BHP blast furnace?

Mr McIVER: No, I am talking about BP Refinery.

Mr P. V. Jones: The company has steadfastly denied the claims the Opposition has made regarding the future of this refinery. Not only has it spent money on it, but also it is making commitments about its future at the moment. If you are talking about the BHP blast furnace you are on solid ground, but if you are talking about the other industrial development, you are wide of the mark.

Mr McIVER: I hope the Minister is right.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am telling you that I am.

Mr McIVER: The Minister must realise that decisions of this nature are not made in this State

or even nationally; they are made at an international level. The information is that inevitably this refinery will close. I hope I am wrong because nobody on this side of the House wants that to happen. Our information is that the decision will be made at world level.

Mr P. V. Jones: Okay, but will you make your information available to us?

Mr McIVER: I will leave it at that point.

Mr P. V. Jones: I would like to have your reliable information.

Mr Brian Burke: You are going to have your hands full with the North-West Shelf project, don't you worry.

Mr McIVER: The Minister has already conceded that, as far as the blast furnace is concerned, I am on solid ground. However, let us return to my argument that we will experience tremendous social problems with the closure of AIS. For the reasons I have outlined, I trust that negotiations will take place and that the social problems I have highlighted will be avoided.

That is a matter for Cabinet to work out. I trust that Cabinet will make it a minute, or at least deal with it at subcommittee level. In that way, the Government can try to avoid the problem and establish a programme to prevent the closure, instead of waiting until it happens.

The policy of the Government at the last election was "Let's leap into the 80s with the Liberals." Well, we have leapt, and we have leapt into the pit of disaster! That is obvious when one looks around Western Australia.

The next aspect with which I want to deal is our country water supplies. I am delighted that the Minister for Works is in the House, because the country people are fed up with the rubbish that he is putting through the pipes from Mundaring to the country regions. If he and I were in private business selling water, we would be gaoled for the water that he is delivering to the country areas, and for the charges that he makes for it. Despite his promises last summer, we have had a repetition, particularly in the towns of York and Beverley in my constituency, of the microbes that cause amoebic meningitis.

The swimming pools at York and Beverley have had to be closed. I assure the Minister that nothing is wrong with the filter systems of both of those standard Olympic pools. The managers of the pools do a magnificent job. However, we have already had one positive reading in York this year, and three positive results in Beverley. That is because of the shocking water that is delivered.

I know it is all very well for me to stand here and criticise this aspect; but it is not receiving the attention it should. Is it because of overfluoridation at the main point that we are receiving these microbes? For simplicity, I will not use the long Latin term. I become tongue-tied using it.

Mr Mensaros: First of all, the amoeba—the bacteria—can get into the water anywhere; and even if you do whatever you do, they can get into the swimming pool, which is not covered. So, that is number one. In order to prevent it, you overchlorinate; and then, of course, the quality of the water appears to be bad. This is a vicious circle, because the Public Health Department says to chlorinate because of the possibility of the bacteria, or because they are there; and once you chlorinate more, you have got a bad supply.

Mr McIVER: I say this with respect, but I do not think the Government is doing enough research into this aspect. We are receiving the worst end of the stick. We still have to pay high charges for the water we are receiving; and the water we are receiving is not fit for human consumption. We had wonderful winter rains last year, but something is radically wrong.

I understand that the tests of the water take 14 days. I am not critical of the Public Works Department officers or of the officers of the Public Health Department who do the analyses; but surely, because of the seriousness of the situation, the analytical tests could be expedited so that we can determine whether a positive result is received. In the 14 days that the tests take, a serious situation could occur.

Mr Mensaros: That is partly money and partly equipment, which is also money. Regarding the cost, everybody in the country pays only half the cost and the other half is subsidised by the Government. Let me tell you I just had lunch with people from the foremost German consultancy firm, Lurgi; they told me that the cost of water in Germany is four times what it is here.

Mr McIVER: I am delighted that the Minister has raised that very important point in relation to finance. In the country areas, the priorities are not parallel. The Government has just spent \$280 000-odd on a police station in Beverley, and in my view, that was not necessary. We have a beautiful stone courthouse in Beverley which is not used. It has been closed because of Government cuts. Yet the Minister is saying—

Mr Mensaros: It is not I.

Mr McIVER: This is where there is a lack of liaison. The Cabinet Ministers are not liaising

with one another. It is everyone for himself. There was no need to waste money in Beverley on a police station, when the money could have been allocated to the Public Works Department for further research, so that decent water could be provided to country towns. The people in the region look for decent water so they can drink it and so that the students at the junior high school and the residents of the community can use the public pool. However, summer after summer, we receive the putrid water that we are now receiving.

It appears that the Government is not worrying about this issue, so I do not think finance is the main concern. The Government can spend money on projects that are not necessary. I do not have the time to go into them all; but the Opposition will be moving motions later in this session; and that will give me an opportunity to highlight those aspects.

I do not know why it cannot be Beverley's year, because if ever a country town has been affected by Government policies, it is Beverley. We have seen the closure of the Avondale Research Station, the supply of shocking water, and the retrenchment of staff from the police station. That is another aspect. The Government built a police station costing \$280 000, and it withdrew one of the constables. We have seen the withdrawal of the female clerk from the courthouse, and the people have had to make other arrangements for the payment of firearm licence fees and other payments they have made there in the past.

This is how the country people are being treated. I am sure that Beverley is not alone in its situation. I am sure other country towns are being affected in the same way. Each item is a small one only; but together they affect the life of country people.

It takes only a few dollars. When we see how the Government wastes money, is it any wonder that the country people become infuriated? That is particularly so when we consider the water they are receiving now.

We should have a Select Committee or a Cabinet subcommittee to investigate the country areas and how the lifestyle of the people is being altered by the policies of the Government. I concede that, because of the policies emanating from Canberra, the various States in Australia have been affected. We have to cut our cloth according to the amount of material we receive. However, that does not mean everything must be supplied in Perth, and nothing in country areas.

The small businessmen in the country areas are being affected. That applies particularly to bricklayers, carpenters, and electricians. Many of the people to whom I have referred have been in business on their own for a long time and, for a variety of reasons, some of which I have mentioned, they are moving to the city and working for wages with big companies. This trend adds to the drain of people from country centres into the city and it is having a significant effect on the economy of country communities.

I shall now take to task the Minister for Transport in relation to various statements he has made in the Press. I do not know whether they have been taken out of context, but I shall now give him the opportunity to clarify the position.

In relation to the closure of the Katanning-Boyup Brook line, the Minister listed the prime reasons as being, firstly, the actual condition of the railway line; and, secondly, the fact that the people in the Boyup Brook region did not want the railway line. The Minister indicated his contention was supported by primary industry organisations in the area as well as by the Shire of Boyup Brook. I can tell the Minister quite categorically that his statement is false and, in the time available to me, I should like to set out the facts of the situation.

The shire and people of Boyup Brook are incensed by the decision of the Government to close the Katanning-Boyup Brook line. The local Primary Industry Association and the Boyup Brook Shire Council are against the closure of the line. The Minister may have misconstrued the position, because those bodies told him the line would be better closed than used only during the superphosphate and grain seasons. They want it to be used 365 days of the year.

The Minister may have misconstrued the position, but he has held the Transport portfolio for long enough to know that matters such as this should be verified.

The people and the Shire of Boyup Brook are incensed also by a statement attributed to the Minister which appeared in the Press to the effect that users of the line were wholeheartedly in favour of its closure. That statement is blatantly untrue. Some of the users of the line, such as fertiliser spreaders, depend on it for their livelihoods. Many farmers are not mechanically equipped to cart super and wool over long distances from their farms to Boyup Brook or Katanning, which they will have to do when the line is closed.

In order to refute the statements made by the Minister, a petition is soon to be circulated

requesting that the line remain open. This is being carried out with the assistance of the local members of Parliament in the region. I am not familiar with all the members; therefore, I shall not refer to them by name.

Since the washaways during the floods, all sections have been repaired with the exception of the 20-kilometre stretch between Muradup and Kojonup. That effectively cuts the branch line and prevents movement of through traffic. All superphosphate for Kojonup, Carlecatup, Holly Punchmirup, and Nookanellup in the past has been despatched from the works at Picton Junction.

Mr Blaikie: That is on the other line, isn't it?

Mr McIVER: It is now despatched from Albany and this has resulted in extra freight charges to the farmer and considerable loss of revenue to the works at Picton Junction.

How does the Minister reconcile his statement that the closure of the line will enable farmers in the region to save money with the fact that the closure will actually increase costs to farmers?

The bulk of the commodities carried on the line consist of wool, superphosphate, and grain. Last year the revenue raised from that line was \$600 000, yet the Government says it is not viable.

Mr O'Connor: What were the costs of running it?

Mr McIVER: I do not know the actual costs involved, but it will cost approximately \$175 000 to repair the washaways at Muradup. That is not a great deal of money when compared with an income of \$600 000 from the line. I must emphasise also the effect the exodus of families has on a small community such as Boyup Brook.

The vested interests involved cannot have it all their own way. Some of the selfish people in the primary industry down there must realise that other people also live in this State. This is the thin edge of the wedge and if this closure proceeds, other sections of railway in country areas in this State will follow suit.

Mr Rushton: Are you saying the local people in the area have in fact requested this closure?

Mr McIVER: They definitely have and the Minister will receive a petition asking for the line to remain open.

Mr Rushton: You must have been confused by my question. I asked whether the people in the area wanted the line closed and you said, "Yes".

Mr McIVER: I am sorry, I misunderstood what the Minister asked. The people in the area do not want the line to be closed. The vested

interests, who want the road hauliers in the area because they have an interest in them, want the line closed. They are in the minority.

Mr Rushton: Are you saying the farmers and people like that are in the minority?

Mr McIVER: No, I am not. Do not let us be facetious about this. People who have spent large sums of money building up their businesses—superphosphate spreaders and the like—rely heavily for their livelihoods on that super traffic and it will disappear.

The figures quoted in the paper, and attributed to the Minister, which record the saving in superphosphate which will result from the closure are not factual. The Minister quoted a figure of \$4.65 a tonne; but it costs \$5.65 a tonne to cart superphosphate from Picton by road truck. Therefore, how can there be a saving? The information given to the Minister was incorrect.

For the sake of accuracy, I should like to point out the Minister is quoted in the Press as saying—

Costs will be reduced up to \$4.50 per tonne under road haulage.

This is difficult to appreciate as many farmers in the area now assert, for instance, that they have super sent by rail because the cost of running their own trucks to the super works at Picton exceeds the \$5.67 per tonne now charged on rail. It is very difficult to understand how anyone would be able to reduce that figure by \$4.50 a tonne and not make a loss.

So there is my case. The Government will increase charges to the primary producers in that area, and will reduce the revenue to the Boyup Brook Shire because of the exodus of those people.

Several years ago as Opposition spokesman on transport, I spoke to the Boyup Brook Shire councillors on the subject of the SWATS report. At the time they were in favour of its recommendations because they thought there would be advantages. I then explained the long-term ramifications involving the departure of the railway personnel from the area when the line was closed. I explained that it was the Government's intention to close the line because the Government had deliberately allowed it to run down. No maintenance was done on the line. The Government had removed the per way employees from the area. All this would mean a cost of \$90 000 to the shire. Those councillors then stood up and paid attention to what I was saying and reversed their decision. They said they would do everything in their power to have the Katanning-Boyup Brook line retained.

The removal of the line is a retrograde step and is only the thin edge of the wedge so far as Government policy is concerned on light rail in country areas. Country people must realise that this Government is hell-bent on assisting road hauliers, people who believe they will make a terrific profit. In fact, such people cannot compete with the freight rates available to country people through the telescopic freight rates of Westrail. I challenge anyone to say I am wrong on that. The hauliers just cannot cart items for the same cost.

The various matters I have raised may seem to some people to be of little consequence, but I firmly believe they are of genuine concern to the majority of Western Australians. I sincerely trust that in the months ahead the Government will give greater attention to country people, particularly those in isolated areas, so as to combat the social implications that will come about with the present redundancies and those that will occur in the future.

Rushton: You will have to acknowledge that in transport they have been given a lot of advantage in country areas.

Mr McIVER: With the policies the Government is intending to implement, and particularly the joint venture, the transport scheme is on the road to disaster.

Mr Rushton: It will be very advantageous.

DR DADOUR (Subiaco) [3.03 p.m.]: I should like to comment on the change of regime and the electorate response to that change. We have passed from the Court regime to the O'Connor regime. I am hopeful that the good things which already have occurred will continue to occur and in fact escalate until we have what I understand to be good government.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Live in hope and die in despair.

DR DADOUR: I feel like the prodigal son. I have been on the outer for so long it is lovely to come back into the fold once again. I feel the dark cloud has passed over.

Mr McIVER: Will they kill the fatted calf?

DR DADOUR: I might be that fatted calf.

Gone are the days of the unnecessary confrontation and the waiting for the boom that never came. I am very pleased to see the present Premier in the Premier's seat. I am just one of those members on the back bench who gives total support to the Premier. I have not heard one back-bencher speak out against him yet, and I do not expect any will do so. It is no good Opposition members trying to create schisms where they do not exist.

Mr Carr: Does that apply to the Mining Act regulations as well?

Dr DADOUR: I hope that now we will get good economic policies with priorities in their correct order. I have spoken about this several times and my words have always fallen on deaf ears, but that will not happen any more. My words are falling on ears that are willing to listen and to act.

In my opinion good government means involving the people, and for a change this is what we are going to get. There will be no more bad decisions such as with the Mining Act, the cessation of the Fremantle-Perth railway service, overspending on health, and incorrect economies being enforced in education. These are the things which must not happen again and which must be rectified.

The most pressing need of the electorate is home ownership with reasonable interest rates. The State Government has to do something about this in the interim period until that cursed Federal Government wakes up to itself and does something about this problem. I wonder what is wrong with the Prime Minister; I wonder whether he has any brain power at all at the moment when I see the way he is going about resolving this problem. What he is doing is so very wrong. He is not doing what I believe he should be doing for the people of Australia.

Home ownership is a way of life; it is something for which every couple strives. But this way of life is being priced out of their reach by high interest rates. The State Government must take up the cudgels until the Federal Government wakes up to itself. We cannot afford to wait until our young home owners are losing their homes because of high interest rates.

I do not abide with confrontation with the electorate; I never have and I never will. I believe in involvement; the more people involved the better the Government is. No new or amending legislation should be brought forward that has not had a good sounding from the electorate *in toto*. If the legislation is good and is needed, why should it be secret? Previously in the party room, we as back-benchers were told what a certain piece of legislation would do. We were not allowed to look at that legislation because we were considered a security risk—we might take it and show it to the electorate.

Mr Barnett: You are not serious, are you?

Mr Tonkin: That is very different from our party.

Dr DADOUR: However, the situation has altered for the better. On request we can see new

legislation without any fuss or ado. This is because of the change of Premier. The new Premier is aware what the back-benchers require. He is proving this by allowing us to see pieces of legislation. There are now more questions asked in the party room and there are more answers demanded of Ministers.

One of the things I have been worried about for a long time is the cost of new legislation. I always want to know the cost of new legislation to the people of this State.

We should be governed in this way. Now we do not have a schism between the front and back benches. I defy any Minister to deny any reasonable request I make, because if he does I will take him to the Premier so that the Premier can tear strips off him.

Mr Davies: Nasty!

Dr DADOUR: I suffered a great deal during the eight years of the Court Government. I cannot remember one Queen's honour going to one of my constituents, and very few JPs were appointed from my electorate.

Mr Carr: We can't get any on this side.

Dr DADOUR: It appears the Opposition and I are in the same boat.

Mr Carr: You just said the opposite.

Dr DADOUR: A change is occurring; when the Opposition establishes a need for something, it will receive what it requests.

Mr Davies: Do you have anything in writing?

Dr DADOUR: I do not need anything in writing; I have the word of the Premier.

Mr I. F. Taylor: You have your pre-selection.

Dr DADOUR: The reason is not my pre-selection; if I had not obtained that pre-selection the Liberal Party would have lost two electorates, Subiaco and Nedlands.

Mr Davies: You can't stand for both of them.

Dr DADOUR: The reaction of the people in those electorates would have been enough.

This State is living far beyond its means, which is the worst type of management possible. We are spending too much and lavishly in areas where we should not. We should consider our priorities, and home ownership should receive the highest priority.

Mr Tonkin: You're on side with us.

Dr DADOUR: Most members on this side always have been in support of home ownership.

Mr O'Connor: That's true.

Dr DADOUR: Difficulties have arisen in this area as a result of the insensitivity of the Federal

Government. The present situation is almost like that which existed during the Whitlam era; this present bloke is almost as hated as Whitlam.

Mr Blaikie: When you mention Whitlam all we have is cold and quiet from the other side.

Mr Evans: At least Whitlam was willing to devalue by 25 per cent.

Dr DADOUR: He devalued himself.

Mr Tonkin: At least he knew how to tell the truth.

Mr Melver: He didn't have to appear in court every week then.

Dr DADOUR: The O'Connor Government means a new ball game. Our Premier is most conscious of the needs of the people. It has been suggested that I owe him something, but I do not.

Mr Tonkin: He probably got paid straightaway.

Dr DADOUR: I do not owe the Premier anything. At least he and I can work together, which we have been doing.

Mr O'Connor: That's right.

Dr DADOUR: I feel like the prodigal son; for so long I was on the outer, but now it is good to be on the inner.

Mr Tonkin: I can't understand why you haven't been promoted.

Dr DADOUR: We can talk about that later.

Mr Tonkin: You are the logical Minister for Health.

Dr DADOUR: Yes!

Several members interjected.

Dr DADOUR: I will not be induced to answer these interjections. The Premier is most conscious of the needs of the people and his loyalty rests with the electorate as it should, and I am sure it will continue.

Mr Tonkin: Is he an improvement on the old one?

Dr DADOUR: I do not want to make comparisons; I am talking about the present, not the past. Members can make their own assumptions.

I am quite upset by some of the changes not made to the Cabinet. If the Minister for Education got the sack for certain reasons, then at least four other Ministers should have got the sack for the same reasons.

Mr Tonkin: Who are they?

Dr DADOUR: I do not wish to name them; they know who they are.

Mr Tonkin: They might disagree with you.

Dr DADOUR: They know in their own hearts who they are; but their maintenance is a legacy of the new Premier, and he must live with it—a Court Cabinet.

Mr Tonkin: He should have made a clean sweep.

Dr DADOUR: He should not have made a clean sweep, but the incompetence should have been removed.

Mr Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Dr DADOUR: Many of the changes the Premier has made are excellent, but his hands were somewhat tied during the change-over period of six weeks while the old remained and the new took over. In those circumstances only few changes were possible.

As I have said, for eight years I was cut off from the Government and was not able to have granted my requests on behalf of my electorate. Although the Labor Party does not believe in the system of granting Queen's honours, it was unfortunate that many most deserving people in my electorate were not granted such honours, and I felt cut up by that.

Mr Evans: What about the Australian honours?

Dr DADOUR: Australian honours as well were not given to any person in my electorate, and as I have said, few JPs were appointed from my area. Some of the Ministers cut me off completely. I made six reasonable requests to one Minister and received six rejections so I decided I would not write again to him and waste my time. I believe the Court Ministers were told to give me little or nothing; in fact, I am quite sure that was the situation. Now we have no more vindictiveness and the Premier is easily approachable. Not one Minister would deny me a reasonable request on behalf of the people of my electorate.

I have been in this place for 11 years and have survived fairly well during that period. I know what makes the Parliament tick and what I can and cannot do. At last I can see the schism between the Cabinet and the back bench eliminated, never to return in the fashion it existed during the term of the Court Government. When the Premier announced his new Cabinet one Minister said that the new Deputy Premier would do well because he could keep the back bench quiet. That Minister should have gone. The Premier must surround himself with sincere and trusted men and remove any incompetent people.

Mr I. F. Taylor: There would be no-one left if he did that.

Dr DADOUR: The member might be somewhat right; I do not know. He is entitled to think the way he wishes.

Mr Pearce: He has a lot of confidence in his colleagues.

Dr DADOUR: A scarcity of confidence exists on both sides. When Opposition members raise such things they should remember that their remarks cast a reflection on their own side.

As I have said, the traits of a good leader are to surround himself with honest and sincere people and to get rid of incompetents. We must consult the people of this State as much as possible. I remind the House of the present Premier's handling of the Workers' Compensation and Assistance Bill of last year. He handled that emotive legislation very well indeed. If he can continue that standard and ensure his Ministers attain that standard, the electorate will be more than happy. The Premier has little time to procrastinate; he must act now.

One thing he must do is have the Mining Act repealed or substantially amended. The regulations will not be passed unless it is amended. It is the previous Premier's Bill.

The Premier must reinstate the Perth-Fremantle passenger rail service. I can say without equivocation that he must throw the Servetus Street issue out on its ear. The MRPA has not come up with anything to show why it is necessary and all these homes are to be pulled down. I cannot understand it.

We must give back to pre-primary education what we have taken away and promised. Some of those promises have been forgotten.

Probably the worst thing that has happened since I have been in Parliament was the issue with the Hospital Laundry and Linen Service. Back in 1971-72 when it was first discussed, I said that industrial strife in this establishment will reduce the hospitals to no action whatsoever and cripple them more readily than if doctors and nurses went on strike, a fact which was proved only a few weeks ago. Quite irresponsibly, these people went on strike and brought the hospitals to their knees. Some interesting points have come out of this.

For instance, the cost of the Hospital Laundry and Linen Service is 75 cents a bag and I have been told by the best authority that one teaching hospital was sending out laundry to a private laundry and it cost only 31 cents a bag and the private laundry was able to make a profit on that and also provide a better finish. It cost less than half and provided a better finish! What more need I say? Why did those people strike when they were receiving approximately \$30 a week more

than their private counterparts? They wanted another \$30 a week and because the Industrial Commission gave them only \$11, they refused to accept it. It is a shocking state of affairs. We should say to the Hospital Laundry and Linen Service, "Right, that's it, bang! Close it down. Put our laundry out into the private area."

Each large laundry in Perth could deal with at least two or more of the teaching hospitals' laundry. To throw in the boot, we should send some of the laundry to the sheltered workshop laundries and just see if they go on strike.

Mr Pearce: If you are a strike-breaking volunteer you get \$100 a day.

Dr DADOUR: Two wrongs do not make a right. I am stating the facts. One hospital put out its laundry to a private firm and got a better finish and a higher quality job for 31c a bag.

Mr Pearce: Is that right? The Premier was paying \$100 a day to those people on strike.

Dr DADOUR: If the member wants strikes that are unwarranted and believes in them, he can do so. I respect his beliefs.

Mr Pearce: If you pay all the laundry workers \$100 a day there will not be any strikes.

Mr Old: What rot!

Mr Pearce: The public was led to believe they were doing it for nothing, and they got \$100 a day!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order!

Dr DADOUR: I sometimes hear people speak of free enterprise instead of private enterprise.

Mr Clarko: Hear, hear!

Dr DADOUR: The difference between the two is shown by comparing the enthusiastic amateur with the professional prostitute. I need say no more on that.

Mr Pearce: Are you indicating a preference?

Dr DADOUR: We could put a wall around the laundry service and get prisoners up from Fremantle to do the laundry, which would be a very cheap way of doing it.

Mr Pearce: Only if you paid them \$100 a day.

Dr DADOUR: We won't go to Canning Vale, but could leave the laundry where it is. The Hospital Laundry and Linen Service should not be leased out to private enterprise *per se* because all the eggs will be in the one basket and we will still have industrial strikes which effectively will close down the hospitals. If we are to get rid of the service, we could give them part of the contract for the public hospitals and give three or four other large laundries in private enterprise the opportunity to take over the rest and we will not

see this situation recurring. We scream that we have not got enough beds for our cardiac patients. They are being put back for so long now that it does not matter. Their efforts to catch up have been in vain as they have not got enough beds to catch up on the backlog. I have been talking about the Hospital Laundry and Linen Service for 10 years now and everybody has been telling me that I was right, but that gives me little pleasure.

I say to the Premier that this Government must clean up its own backyard. It has not been cleaned up since I have been in Government. I said to the former Premier in 1974 that we could not achieve good government unless we cleaned up our own backyard, and our backyard got worse. We are supposedly a private enterprise Government, which could have fooled me, because under the past regime the State Government work force went from 88 000 in 1974 to 106 900 in 1980, with a very firm policy of a negative increase. In the Budget debate last year I stated that we had to make teaching hospital beds compare with the situation in our sister States. I also brought to the House's attention—I do not think anybody listened—that the faculty of medicine is the Medical School, all people in the teaching area and the Australian Medical Association which represents about 90 per cent of Perth's doctors and other doctors employed in hospitals. These people all want and agree with the reduction in the number of teaching hospital beds. We have far too many. They wanted this for economic reasons. It costs something like \$300 a bed per day compared with the regional hospital bed costing about \$130 per day, which is less than half.

The ordinary surgical cost of an appendectomy, a tonsilectomy, or a herniorrhaphy—all mundane operations—does not warrant a \$300-a-day bed for patient care. We do need a few of these cases for the benefit of medical students, but we do not want the teaching hospitals full of them as occurs at the moment. We could save many dollars per year.

On 13 October 1981 I asked the Minister for Health the cost per bed per day at all the hospitals and the staffing ratio per bed at these hospitals. He replied that for Royal Perth Hospital it was \$261.31 per day, Princess Margaret Hospital \$382.76 per day, and Osborne Park Hospital \$124.48 per day. The Swan Districts Hospital figure was \$130.13 per day.

I asked the staffing ratio for Royal Perth Hospital which was 4.72 per bed. The Princess Margaret Hospital figure was 4.79 and for Osborne Park Hospital it was 1.58. The staffing ratio for Swan Districts Hospital was 1.84 people

per bed. According to my estimates, if we halve the number of teaching hospital beds—we have 2 600 at the moment—and taking the figure 1 300, at a cost of approximately \$130 a bed per day, and multiply that by 365, we would arrive at a figure of \$60 million.

On 8 December 1981 I received a letter, under the signature of the Minister for Health, stating that the staff-patient ratio for Osborne Park Hospital and Swan Districts Hospital—using them as representative of non-teaching hospitals—was 2.5 to 1. This has risen from 1.58 to 2.5. I do not know where that figure came from because my question was asked on 13 October 1981 and I spoke on 29 October 1981, during the Budget debate. However, I received a letter, under the Minister's signature, dated 8 December 1981.

It seems the staff ratio has risen from 1.58 to 2.5. Previously the staff ratio in teaching hospitals was 4.8, but it appears to have decreased to 4.5.

The letter said that if the calculation were made as I suggested, we would save only \$33 million and not \$60 million. However, I believe a saving of only \$33 million is still a formidable amount.

The Commonwealth Government has said that we have spent \$96 million on health in the last financial year. I have asked the Commonwealth people for a breakdown of this figure, but they will not give it to me. I have asked the State Minister also, but he doesn't know, either.

I find all these discrepancies and lies difficult to swallow. An amount of \$44 million is to be spent in the financial year 1981-82 on hospital building works. We have already lavish public hospitals and we have more public hospitals than have our sister counterparts. However, we are to spend a further \$44 million at a time when there is a depression in the building area. It is all very well to have public works continuing to provide employment to tide people over, but there should not be such waste in the building of such lavish hospitals.

Very little of this money is a tied grant from the Commonwealth. An amount of approximately \$5 million is provided by the Commonwealth and the rest is found by the State.

It would benefit us electorally and as well as being of benefit to the people if we built more homes with that \$60 million, we could save in running costs for the teaching hospitals. Surely we can provide low interest rate loans for people who wish to own their own homes. That is what I call good government and that is what I hope to see. The Government can do much more in this

area, but we go on building more hospitals. I believe the money should be transferred from the hospital building area to the home building area. If we do this we will endear ourselves to the electorate as well as display good government.

We should not be wasting money on hospital building. Quite often the okay is given to go ahead with these hospital buildings after the horse has bolted. I received a letter from the Public Works Department informing me that there had been a tender for an outpatient building for the Shenton Park Annexe. Maybe there is a need for that provision in the future, but it is not needed now. I could not object to that provision because it was as a result of the past regime. However, I intend to keep an eye on such works and note the way in which the money is spent in the future. We should not be making hospitals more lavish just for the people who work in them.

The spending in public hospitals should be for the benefit of the patients and the rate of spending indicates that it costs almost \$1 million a bed at a time when we have too many.

I have presented a solution to a problem in this area and it has the backing of the medical faculty. It has the backing of the people who do all the teaching at the Medical School as well as the Australian Medical Association which represents about 90 per cent of the doctors.

The doctors have no objection whether their patients are in a \$130 a day bed or \$280 a day bed. The treatment is identical. Many patients who have received treatment for minor complaints have stated that the treatment in each hospital is equal.

I am just trying to bring home, with some force, what I have been trying to get across to the House for some time now. At least there is a bit of fresh air present and notice may have been taken.

In the area of welfare I suggest that the Government investigate what is occurring in Victoria, where voluntary and religious organisations undertake a large part of the welfare work in that State and that it consider introducing the same system in Western Australia. I see the department being a great bureaucratic organisation which is using a lot of money quite unnecessarily to make its own empire bigger and better. We could introduce a system similar to that operating in Victoria and maintain the department as the overseer so that it can ensure the correct standards are being maintained. I have impressed these points upon the Premier before and I do so again because I consider it is the answer in relation to welfare. If

this matter is not given careful consideration we will go on merrily, as we have in the past, and prices will continue to skyrocket—SEC and water charges will increase at more than the inflation rate because the management of our spending money is not good enough.

Mr Davies: When you talk about welfare, can you name any area in which you consider churches would operate better than the Government?

Dr DADOUR: Yes, I was thinking of child care institutions in particular; there are other areas of welfare which the Government has not gone into, such as the behavioural problems of boys and girls which no-one but the nuns will tackle because the results are not good.

Mr Davies: They do it now, the Government subsidises them.

Dr DADOUR: The funding is being cut. I believe a committee should be formed consisting of a select group of voluntary and religious organisations to ascertain what work they would be able to undertake and the funds that would be required. Members opposite cannot object to my suggestion because they have the same philosophy. The cost incurred by the State in running welfare organisations is much more than that which would be incurred by religious institutions.

Mr Davies: I have not seen any comparative figures.

Dr DADOUR: I have looked at the Victorian figures and they are less than those of this State.

Mr Davies: I suppose they have voluntary labour which must be cheaper.

Dr DADOUR: There are not many religious organisations left—they are very few and far between. People are not entering convents or religious orders at the present time. There are many people who are retired and who could use their leisure hours in a voluntary capacity. This touches on an area which I did not want to mention and that is true leisure. True leisure is when a person does something for others.

Mr Davies: If you are not doing something for others, I suppose it is pleasure instead of leisure.

Dr DADOUR: It depends on what one has under one! I think I have said enough on that subject.

Mr Davies: I think you have.

Dr DADOUR: I have put forward the points that I wished to make and I feel that the Premier has been listening—he has been taking notes, or if not, he has been doing the crossword. I wish him a long, long Premiership.

Mr Davies: We cannot join you there.

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [3.45 p.m.]: Times have changed. It is nearly six years since I first came to this place. During that time I have sat through many a diatribe from the member for Subiaco in the course of the Address-in-Reply debate. This is the first time he has had a kind word for the Premier. However, that is not the only thing which has changed, because when I first came into this Parliament after the 1977 elections I remember sitting through a whole range of obsequious crawlings to the Premier from almost everybody on the Liberal back bench who had hopes of being promoted to the Ministry of the previous Premier. The only failure in that respect was the member for Subiaco. Now the member for Subiaco is lavishly praising the Premier, but nobody else is. It is amazing that I have lived to see such a reversal.

I said on opening night when the member for Subiaco seconded the Address-in-Reply motion that I never thought I would live to see the day. It is well known there are a number of disappointed people on the Liberal back bench both here and in another place, who had hopes of being promoted to the Ministry.

Mr O'Connor: There are quite a few on your side, too.

Mr PEARCE: However, the member for Subiaco, whose original run-in with the previous Premier was over the fact that the previous Premier declined to make him Minister for Health when the opportunity arose, now has settled for seconding the Address-in-Reply.

Dr Dadour: Be fair. That was not the original argument at all. The argument has always been about bad management on the part of the Government.

Mr PEARCE: I have seen people settle for a lot less than their main aims, but I have never seen anyone settle for so much less.

Mr Laurance: You are being churlish. Don't you have a speech prepared?

Mr PEARCE: The honeymoon between the Premier and the member for Subiaco is likely to be relatively short-lived. Everything in the garden may be roses at the moment. However, when the motion relating to the closure of the Perth-Fremantle railway line, and the two motions for the disallowance of certain Mining Act regulations come before the House, it will be the same old situation, with the member for Subiaco and his superiors at loggerheads.

Mr Sibson: How is the simmering on your back bench?

Mr PEARCE: The member for Bunbury will have to ask my colleagues about that.

Another fairly significant change has been implemented since I last spoke in this place. I now have a new direct opposite in the Education portfolio. I refer to the man who was unlucky enough to have missed out on the Deputy Premiership by only two votes, and who then did not make the real Ministry. I suppose the new Premier had little option but to continue with the charade of having two Honorary Ministers, although I believe we could call them "back-benchers, with portfolio". However, considering that something like one-quarter of the State's Budget is spent on education, it is amazing that the position of the Education portfolio in the hierarchy has been downgraded to the extent that we now have an Honorary Minister looking after it.

Mr O'Connor: The Honorary Minister has many more qualifications than you will ever have.

Mr PEARCE: That is not strictly accurate, as a simple look at the record of members of the Parliament will show. I do not claim to have greater qualifications in pure academic terms, than the Honorary Minister for Education, but my qualifications are certainly no less than his. However, I am not prepared to enter an argument on that aspect.

The point I make is that if the member for Karrinyup had to be the Minister for Education, he should have been made a full Minister and, in fact, the Education portfolio should not have been left to an Honorary Minister, particularly in so far as the Education Department over recent years has become a power unto itself, particularly under the former Director General of Education. It must have been very difficult for any Minister for Education to try to direct that gentleman. Although the new Director General of Education may be more amenable, it seems hardly fair to give the Education portfolio to an Honorary Minister, who would lack the authority necessary to direct the Education Department in the way it should be directed.

Mr Sibson: He certainly makes up for it in ability.

Mr PEARCE: If he has the ability, he should also be given the authority. The member for Karrinyup and I exchanged words last year over our respective ambitions to be Minister for Education. The member for Karrinyup denied it at the time. I hope he becomes the real Minister for Education between now and the end of the session because it is important that the Education portfolio is not left for any length of time under

the control of an Honorary Minister. Because of his qualifications and experience and the interest he has shown in education it is unfortunate that he has been so quiet since he was promoted to Honorary Minister. I am known all over the place as the shadow Minister, but people are now talking about the phantom Minister as well. The only thing I can say that he has done is to suspend a teacher at Kalgoorlie, but I will not say any more about that because the matter is before the tribunal at the present time.

In fact, the only education priority the State Government appeared to have was to destroy the Guild of Undergraduates, and this does not seem a remarkably important priority considering the mess the Education Department is in. However, the deposed Minister for Education beat me to the punch on this at question time last night. It is no secret that several members on my side of the House would like to be the shadow Minister for Education and now it looks as though a member from the Government side has joined their ranks. He may be a formidable shadow Minister for Education! Now that I know he is in the Chamber, I would like to say to him that one could commiserate with him over his fall from grace. However, I will not be hypocritical about it—I called for his resignation often enough and I was not surprised when he went. However, I believe he can claim to be unfortunate to be sacked for implementing the Government's policy. The member for South Perth suffered last year to some extent at my hands, because he was implementing and articulating Government policy. By changing Ministers the Premier is seeking to suggest that the policy has changed, but of course that is not the truth at all. The policy of cuts and cutbacks in education will continue more viciously and fiercely in the forthcoming Budget.

So there has been no change in regard to policy, but only a change in regard to the face in charge. However, the Honorary Minister is caught on the horns of a dilemma in regard to his efforts with the Guild of Undergraduates. It is now known that he was supported not only by the parliamentary party, but also by the right wing faction of the party machine, and particularly on issues such as attacks on the student movement. The Honorary Minister has been a leading light in this matter as a member of Parliament, and he was the chairman of the back-bench committee on education, health, and welfare. A while back he attempted to purport that to be a parliamentary committee.

Mr Clarko: Absolutely false. You should have more gumption than to stand up and say that.

Mr PEARCE: The Honorary Minister claimed that last year, but I was obliged to table a document to correct that.

Mr Clarko: Why don't you correct that because I did not put a single word on it. It was false. I had nothing to do with that statement.

Mr PEARCE: I am prepared to concede that the letter was signed by the secretary of the committee.

Mr Clarko: So what you said is totally false. I did not purport myself to be that at all.

Mr PEARCE: It was not totally false. The Speaker was obliged to intervene in the matter. The Honorary Minister was given an opportunity to present a defence and he did present a defence based solely on the fact that after the event everybody realised it was a party committee and not a parliamentary committee.

Mr Clarko: You missed the point again. I did not represent myself that way at all.

Mr PEARCE: The committee misrepresented the Honorary Minister, is that it?

Mr Clarko: You are saying somebody else did that, are you?

Mr PEARCE: Unfortunately when the truth was presented to the Honorary Minister, he was not able to dissociate himself from the letter that was sent.

Mr Clarko: That is a different point; you have moved off the ground as usual.

Mr PEARCE: It is not a point on which I intend to delay the House at all.

Mr Clarko: No, it is a whole series of untruths to the House. Just listen for one minute. You said I misrepresented myself to the committee and I am saying I didn't. You just admitted I didn't.

Mr PEARCE: I did not admit that the Honorary Minister did not misrepresent himself because in telephone calls to the gentlemen concerned, the Honorary Minister did misrepresent himself.

Mr O'Connor: Telephone calls!

Mr Clarko: That is absolutely false.

Mr PEARCE: It is not false.

Mr Clarko: You are a total stranger to the truth.

Mr PEARCE: When I tabled documents in the House, I tabled a document which supported the allegations I made that the Honorary Minister had misrepresented himself to the Guild of Undergraduates. However, the letter was signed by the secretary of the committee, the then member for Murdoch. That is certainly the case,

but all I conceded was not that the Honorary Minister had not misrepresented himself, but that the actual documentary evidence had been signed by another member of the committee. However, the documents supported a proposition I put to the House that the committee was attempting to give itself a status that the House had not given it.

Mr Clarko: Absolutely false.

Mr PEARCE: The Honorary Minister had a chance to defend himself on that occasion and the defence he chose was that everybody knew it was a party committee and the reason everyone knew it was a party committee was that I had told them so.

Mr Clarko: Absolutely false. You made a claim that I misrepresented myself and I showed I did not. Now you want five bob each way.

Mr PEARCE: I do not want five bob each way. The Honorary Minister made a telephone call to the Acting President of the Guild of Undergraduates—the then vice-president—and misrepresented the committee as a parliamentary committee.

Mr Clarko: That is false. How can you possibly know what I said to that person. I challenge you to produce anyone who has seen Tony Nutt and that he told him that I said that.

Mr PEARCE: The Honorary Minister is now saying—

Mr Clarko: I challenge you to say that you discussed the telephone conversation with Tony Nutt. Who do you say has given evidence of what I said to him?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Trethowan): Order! I call the House to order! I ask that the member for Gosnells be allowed to continue his speech.

Mr PEARCE: Thank you Sir. I am not surprised that the Honorary Minister is touchy on that point.

Mr Clarko: I am not touchy. You have never discussed that conversation with Tony Nutt.

Mr PEARCE: The answer that was given in the House last night to the question asked by the member for South Perth was inaccurate to say the least. There is no intention to introduce legislation either to attack the Guild of Undergraduates of the University of Western Australia or to attack other student movements during the current session of the Parliament. I call on the Honorary Minister to deny that.

Mr Laurance: What about that phone call?

Mr Clarko: I answered that question properly.

Mr PEARCE: When you said that it was under active consideration?

Mr Clarko: That is what it is.

Mr PEARCE: There will be no legislation.

Mr Clarko: Don't you have enough brains to know what active consideration means?

Mr Carr: Pigeon-holed!

Mr Clarko: No it does not. It means a whole host of things. That is obvious. Don't you have the brains to realise that? Active consideration means a whole lot of considerations except there is some immediacy about it.

Mr PEARCE: I want to move onto another matter in regard to these other considerations. The problem the Honorary Minister has is that he got where he is, and probably he got the big vote for Deputy Premier, on the basis of this form of attack on student organisations in the past.

Mr Clarko: Well it must be a very important issue if that is the case.

Mr PEARCE: It is not important to me in that sense. It is a sideshow of a sideshow, which is what I said at the beginning of the whole business. However, it is obviously important to certain sections of the Liberal Party machine and certain sections of the Liberal Party back bench. While the State is in economic chaos, unprecedented since the great Depression of the 1930s, and the education system, under greater pressure than ever in its history except for the time of the great Depression, the thing that concerns a quarter of the Liberal Party is what can it do about the Guild of Undergraduates. That is the education priority of those people, and the Guild of Undergraduates was the first body about which the Honorary Minister made statements when he became the Honorary Minister.

Mr Clarko: Produce the evidence of that.

Mr PEARCE: That is an unfortunate set of priorities.

Mr Clarko: Produce the evidence.

Mr PEARCE: Now, however, those people who supported him in the party room are aware there is to be no attack because the university and the WAIT senate have taken a very firm line indeed on these issues with the Honorary Minister. Being only an Honorary Minister, he does not have the authority to stand up to that form of pressure. So the Honorary Minister is now caught in a situation largely of his own making. He was pushed into a job of ideological consideration, but lacks the clout to deliver the ideological goods, and he is up against the establishment. I predict there will be no legislation this session regarding

the undergraduates, and many of the extreme right wing Liberals around campus—

Mr Clarko: How about producing the evidence to show I raised this matter? Where did I raise it?

Mr PEARCE: I read the report in the Press. One of the Honorary Minister's first actions was to convene a meeting of all the heads of the institutions to discuss this matter.

Mr Clarko: It was not one of the first matters.

Mr PEARCE: It was one of the first matters.

Mr Clarko: Who said I raised that as an issue?

Mr Carr: Certainly you raised it in the House on many occasions.

Mr Clarko: That is a separate thing.

Mr PEARCE: The Honorary Minister raised it as an issue by convening a meeting of the heads of institutions to discuss it.

Mr Clarko: He gets to the truth by sheer coincidence.

Mr Carr: The Minister protesteth too loudly on that point.

Mr PEARCE: Too loudly and too long! It seems the previous Minister used to listen occasionally, and his interjections were both more pithy and humorous.

Mr Clarko: I tell you you would be half of that.

Mr PEARCE: The Honorary Minister will be in a lot of difficulty in his own party. I will follow his progress with considerable interest. It will be a short career, and not a remarkably brilliant one.

The point to which I wish to turn my attention and that of the Honorary Minister—and it is time that he did something about it—is the situation that confronts schools in this State at the beginning of every school year when the staffing does not settle down for three or four weeks, and dozens of schools experience disruption while the Education Department shuffles teachers around in order to conform with a mystical formula.

Mr Sibson: That is not true. It may happen at one or two schools; but it simply is not true to put it on that basis. It is not factual.

Mr Carr: Here is the other shadow Minister for Education!

Mr PEARCE: The shadow phantom Minister for Education! Here is a clear indication of how divided loyalties can affect somebody. The member for Bunbury is a State councillor of the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations. He ought to be pressing strongly to have stability in schools for students and parents. However, he is much more intent on protecting the reputation of the Government.

Mr Sibson: What action did I take at Newton Moore when the teachers tried to bring down one of the best schools in this State, with an overpopulation of eight teachers? That is what they endeavoured to do. They had eight teachers over formula; and I took action, and that was fixed immediately.

Mr PEARCE: The member for Bunbury took action to be rid of eight teachers?

Mr Sibson: No. I took action to have the thing resolved; and it was resolved very quickly.

Mr PEARCE: How was it resolved? How many teachers left?

Mr Sibson: None. The thing was resolved when the teachers went back to school.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I draw to the attention of the member for Gosnells that the question under discussion is the Address-in-Reply. If the member determines to have a cross-Chamber debate with other members, the Chair can do little to offer him the courtesy that he ought to receive. I suggest that the member address his comments to the Chair, and the Chair will try to give him the protection that members debating in this House are entitled to receive.

Mr PEARCE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The point that needs to be made to the member for Bunbury simply is that the whole business of overformula has become outdated, because every high school and most primary schools in the State are overformula in the strictest sense. The formula is itself outdated; and the staffing of schools, as the member for Bunbury would describe it, is designed to provide an adequate number of teachers for the schools. It so happens that an adequate number of teachers is more than the formula provides; and the old red herring about the formula providing the number of teachers needed is ridiculous. It is totally astounding that somebody who is a State councillor of WACSSO should be arguing for fewer teachers in schools. I am sure that he does not reflect the policy of the organisation of which he is a State councillor.

Mr Sibson: If you are talking about one or two teachers, yes; but when you are talking about eight teachers—

Mr PEARCE: I am talking about many teachers and many schools. I will give an example from my own electorate. The Huntingdale Primary School forecast, on the basis of last year's enrolment, that it would have 511 students in this school year. In fact, the school has 506, five students short of the predicted number. On the basis of the shortfall of five students, the

school has been deprived of 1.6 teachers—that is to say, a ratio of just over two students per teacher lost. That is because of the shortfall of five students.

When I became aware of that situation, I wrote to the Honorary Minister for Education pointing out the ridiculous aspect of attempting to put the formula into operation to that extent. For the loss of five students, the school must lose one and three-fifths teachers. A couple of weeks later, the Honorary Minister—I will be fair to the Honorary Minister; it was his private secretary who sent a letter acknowledging that my letter had been received. However, before I received the acknowledgment that the matter was under consideration, one teacher had been removed from the school. I wrote to the Honorary Minister asking him not to enforce the formula to that ridiculous extent; and before I was told that the matter was being considered, one of the teachers had been removed! The position is that when another teacher leaves later to have a child, she will not be replaced by a full-time teacher, but she will be replaced by a two-fifths-time teacher. That will take place in a matter of weeks; so for the loss of five children that school will be disrupted yet again.

The Honorary Minister did not have the courtesy to consider my representations before making a decision. Fortunately, that is something that will change in 1983.

Mr Clarko: That is not true. As soon as I received the material, we looked at it straightaway and replied through the departmental system, as early as we could. As you know, 511 is the start of a new series of ratios.

Mr PEARCE: I give an undertaking that when our positions are reversed, the present Honorary Minister will not have teachers shifted out of his schools after he has made representations for them to stay there. He will be advised of the outcome before any action is taken.

Mr Clarko: The reason is that last year the principal of that school forecast 511 which, by coincidence, happens to be the start of a new range of staffing. Therefore, we properly gave them the staff for 511 students; and later, as we look at numbers generally at the end of March, we will make adjustments. I would have thought that would be a fair system.

Mr PEARCE: I am not suggesting that the Honorary Minister has acted outside the regulations or not according to normal procedures. I concede that he has done that. My point is that I made a representation, and before consideration had been given to that I was advised

that the teachers were being shifted. However, that is only a matter of courtesy, and I am not particularly concerned about that.

My point is that any system that calls for the removal of 1.6 teachers for five students is a foolish system, and it requires change. Furthermore, the Honorary Minister has quite succinctly outlined the system whereby at the end of March any slight discrepancies in staffing are adjusted. That causes disruption in dozens of schools in this State; and that is the point about which I am complaining. I am not saying that the Honorary Minister has fiddled the system; but I am saying that it is a foolish system which ought to be changed. Under a Labor Government, it will be changed.

Mr Clarko: What would you do instead? Would you put fewer teachers in and add more as the numbers grew above the figure?

Mr PEARCE: We would change the present ridiculous situation. Teachers are being shifted from schools because of minor differences of five or six children, and being added to other schools where the number of children has tipped over the crucial dividing line figure. In many ways, the schools are better off having extra children than having the disruption and the confusion.

Principals are being placed in unacceptable positions. Either they have to form classes of unacceptable sizes, or they have to disband the ancillary programmes which the ancillary teachers have been providing.

I understand that at the Huntingdale Primary School the decision has been made to keep the class sizes reasonable and to disband the ancillary programmes. Doubtless other schools would have taken the alternative decision, but neither decision is good.

Mr Clarko: We introduced the system whereby from 1974 principals have had a much greater say in making those sorts of adjustments and I think you would agree it is better to have the decision making as close to the source as possible, and that is a major change.

Mr PEARCE: I agree with that. In fact our policy takes that one step further; that is to say, we would scrap the formula altogether and allow principals to apply for the number of staff they believe will be required on the basis of anticipated enrolments and on account of the programmes they wish to run in the schools. So a principal of any school would apply for the number of staff he believed would be necessary. Obviously that bid for a certain number of teachers would be vetted by the Education Department at the end of each year and, in terms of the amount of money

available for staffing—I imagine we would be rather more generous there than the current Government—each school would be given its allocation of teachers, not according to a formula, but according to the request from the school as to the number of teachers required to run the school programmes properly.

Mr Watt: You said, “I imagine we would be rather more generous”; how much more generous would you be?

Mr PEARCE: The member will see our election undertakings in good time and I would be very surprised if we were not more generous.

Mr Watt: You still must have a formula of some sort as a starting point.

Mr PEARCE: In a *de facto* sense there would be a formula and that would be the starting point, because each of the schools would have a certain number of teachers already.

Mr Watt: That is what happens now, because special needs are given consideration.

Mr PEARCE: I agree with the member that there is some room for flexibility; but it is not remarkably flexible when one hits the magic numbers.

Mr Clarko: Do you think it was a coincidence that principal chose 511 or do you think he did it deliberately in order to maximise the number of staff he could have?

Mr PEARCE: In fact there were 511 students on the roll at the beginning of the school year at that particular school.

Mr Clarko: But they did not front, did they?

Mr PEARCE: Some did not front, but at the same time no transfer forms had been received from them. Had they moved to other schools, the transfer forms for those students should have come forward in the normal way. The basis on which staff changes were not made for several weeks was that a certain time has to elapse before students who have transferred from other schools can be deemed to be off the roll.

Mr Clarko: It is wise to do that.

Mr PEARCE: It may be, but it also cuts across the fact that the Minister indicated the principal may have rigged the numbers.

Mr Clarko: I did not say that. I am told that the department thought the figure would not be as high as 511, but thought it would be fairly close, so it chose, in a proper way, to give that extra number of staff. The alternative was to give the principal 1.6 less.

Mr PEARCE: But the department has done that; that is the net result of all this.

Mr Clarko: But the spirit of what the department did was better than the other alternative, because it was uncertain as to the final number of students.

Mr PEARCE: Certainly the parents at Huntingdale Primary School, and probably the staff, do not agree with that proposition, because not only will the school be disrupted twice—once by the removal of one teacher and subsequently by the removal of 0.6 of a teacher—but also it will be back to the situation in which it would have been at the beginning of the year had the department taken action early in the year to establish the correct staff numbers. As a result of what occurred, within a couple of months the school will be in the same situation it would have been in at the beginning of the year anyway had the department not made that decision. That is the point I am arguing about in regard to the specifics, but generally it is a ridiculous system under which the difference of one or two students over or above 510 can make a difference of 1.6 in teacher numbers.

However, I understand that if one works on a formula system, one has to have cutoff points and regardless of the cutoff point one chooses, the result will always be ridiculous.

Mr Clarko: It may be a loose formula. You can't have hundreds of teachers in a school with 500 students.

Mr PEARCE: If there is no *de facto* formula one avoids the sorts of difficulties where minor variations in student numbers result in teachers being added to or taken away from the school.

The Huntingdale Primary School went through this exercise last year. It lost a teacher at the same time of the year, because there was a continuing decline in enrolments in the first two or three months of the year from February through to April. After that the numbers increased so that, at the end of the year, they were greater than they had been at any other time during the year.

The Huntingdale Primary School should have got the teacher back in October, but it did not, because it was education funding cutback time. However, I argue the school ought not to get a teacher back at that point, because having a few extra pupils does not justify bringing in a new teacher along with all the disruptions that causes. An additional teacher should be given or taken away only when there is a change in school enrolments of at least one class size; that is, approximately 30 students. Where there is a significant change, perhaps some readjustment of

staffing could be necessary, particularly in terms of adding teachers rather than taking them away.

Mr Sibson: That is why it is important that the 1.6 teachers be taken out very quickly. We agree with you and that is why it is done. However, you must bear in mind also that if every school in Western Australian had 1.6 teachers too many it would add up to almost 1 000 teachers.

Mr PEARCE: The member's statistical knowledge is amazingly vacuum like! Not every school will have 1.6 teachers taken away, because it will happen only to those schools which come within the statistical cutoff point.

However, I certainly agree that dozens of schools come within that area. Some of them are just over the cutoff point and some are just under it. Therefore, the shuffling that is being done is disrupting dozens of schools. Our proposition is there ought not to be a formula. At the end of the year schools ought to submit a proposal indicating the number of staff they want.

Mr Sibson: That is living in a world of make believe.

Mr PEARCE: No, it is not, because it recognises that, in many areas, needs are vastly different. The need for teachers is dependent upon the provision of facilities as well as on the number of students who require teaching. For example, it may well be an argument exists for having a lesser number, if one is working on a formula basis, or for making more generous provision, if one is not working on that basis, for small country schools which do not come up to full class sizes, to enable them to avoid group classes; but it is better to have classes of 20 instead of excessively large classes.

Mr Watt: Obviously you are putting up quite an innovative programme; but what you are suggesting could well cause problems in classroom accommodation. How would you overcome that?

Mr PEARCE: Obviously when schools put forward a programme, they would be limited by their facilities. The member would be as well aware as I am that schools apply for additional accommodation now in terms of transportables, demountables, and the like. Obviously school programmes will suffer a range of limitations and some schools will put forward programmes which are more ambitious than State Treasury can accommodate. I would expect the total range of bids under this system would exceed the capabilities of even a Labor Government to provide and, in that case, by negotiation a bid would be brought down to a manageable size.

Mr Watt: I did not think there was such a limit.

Mr PEARCE: We concede that, under a Labor Government, there would not be a Utopia in education or anything else. We would be operating under financial constraints as is the present Government. However, with our goodwill and efforts to raise additional funds and fairly expend the money available, we would end up with greater expenditure on education.

Mr Watt: Don't you think the Government takes cognisance of Treasury advice now?

Mr PEARCE: If the member is suggesting the Treasury is running the State—I am not saying he is—

Mr Watt: I am not saying that.

Mr PEARCE: Treasury advice is given and it can be accepted or rejected. The priorities of a Labor Government in the education area would be greater than the priorities of the present Government. However, we can discuss that at length in the course of the 1983 Budget debate when we shall no doubt have some comparative figures.

I will stop at that point, because I did not intend to speak for anywhere near as long as I have. I am sure if one takes out all the interjections, one will find I have spoken for only 10 or 12 minutes anyway.

Mr Clarko: That is a change!

Mr PEARCE: The point I make seriously is this whole business of staffing in schools and the disruption which prevails with the present formula system can no longer be endured and needs to be replaced.

The system I have outlined is an obvious replacement for it and the present Honorary Minister, should he last so long, would do us all a favour were he to introduce that system at the beginning of the 1983 school year.

Mr Clarko: Don't get personal and nasty.

Mr PEARCE: I suggest the Honorary Minister might pinch our policy before the election and do us all a lot of good.

Mr Clarko: If it was any good I might take notice of it.

Mr PEARCE: He is clearly not interested. I have not been impressed by the start the Honorary Minister has made. Perhaps he is unaware that earlier I had the goodness to pressure the Premier to make him a proper Minister so that he could carry out his functions properly. His interest in education has indicated an authoritarian trend which is likely to show through during his time as a Minister.

Mr Clarko: Name the authoritarian trend. That is what you said in the Press on the first day. It is just mud-slinging.

Mr PEARCE: People rang and asked me what I thought of the Honorary Minister for Education. I said he should have been a full Minister.

Mr O'Connor: What about if we introduce a Bill for him to be a full Minister?

Mr Sibson: Would you support it?

Mr PEARCE: Not necessarily.

Mr O'Connor: If you would I will guarantee to introduce such a Bill.

Mr PEARCE: That would be an easy way out for the Premier, because there are already 13 executive posts provided for in the Constitution and the Premier will not avail himself of one of those posts for education. It is no good the Premier making education a fourteenth ministerial priority by extending the Ministry to 14. Education is one of the top three or four ministerial portfolios. Even if there were only four Ministers, one should be the Minister for Education. The Premier's suggestion is no panacea. I will be watching the progress of the Honorary Minister for Education with interest and undoubtedly will comment further during the year.

MR SIBSON (Bunbury) [4.21 p.m.]: I support the Address-in-Reply. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the work done by the previous Premier (Sir Charles Court). I have been a member of Parliament for almost nine years to the day and I always found Sir Charles to be helpful. He was a great leader and I am very proud that I was able to be associated with him while he was leader of the Government. I was disappointed that he chose to leave the scene so soon, but he did so quickly and quietly as he had always promised. He retired from the scene in a very dignified manner. I thank Sir Charles Court and Lady Court for the wonderful way in which they served this State. I thank them for their help to my family and me, and the assistance they gave members of the Liberal Party in general over a long period.

Mr Parker: You got a new office as a result.

Mr SIBSON: I welcome and congratulate the new Premier. Having been a member of Parliament for such a long time, and having been responsible for almost every ministerial portfolio, and had all his outside interests before he became a member of Parliament, he is in very good stead to lead this Government and the State onwards to the greater things we will see happen in the future.

An earlier speaker made a facetious comment about the boom that did not come. I do not think there was ever a thought held by the previous Premier or the present Premier that there should be a boom. We believe there should be a steady development that would make this State grow in a solid and sound way, not only in the metropolitan area, but also throughout the entire State.

This is what has happened, because if we look at some of the circumstances in other States we see we are in a good position. I will not delve too deeply into this area, because it was admirably commented on last night by the member for Mundaring.

Having just returned to Western Australia, after travelling extensively through the Eastern States and New Zealand, I am confident in the knowledge that this State is poised to accept any challenge put before it, whether it be the North-West Shelf, the development of power stations and smelters in the south-west, or the expansion of our very vast rural and other resources. Of our major resources, energy is the most important, despite the problems we have had and the critical situations we have been placed in by the Federal Government.

While I support the beliefs of the Federal Government, we as State parliamentarians have a responsibility and an obligation to remind our State's representatives in the Federal Parliament that this State is poised to move ahead. We cannot tolerate in any way the holding back of progress here as we experienced when we were told that Federal funds for the establishment of the Bunbury power station and one or two smelters would not be forthcoming.

It would be a different matter if our transport, education, health, housing, and industrial development systems were running down. Perhaps then there would be cause for the Federal Government to intervene. However, at a time when this State is poised to move forward—this is particularly so of the south-west, an area with which I am closely associated and have been all my life—it is unacceptable for us to be told by the Federal Government that because of the economic situation we are unable to proceed with the Bunbury power station.

This is bad economics. The establishment of a power station in Bunbury should have been under way by now and we should have been further advanced with other projects in the south-west. We would have been in a position to provide energy to areas such as Kalgoorlie and the Pilbara. These are concerns of which we must be

very much aware. We must follow them through all the way.

Mr Bertram: What do you propose to do when the Fraser Government ignores your pleas once again?

Mr SIBSON: Despite these setbacks, the previous Premier and the present Premier and his Ministers have pushed ahead and been in constant contact with the Federal Government in order to overcome this problem, one I am confident will be overcome in the very near future. We are now looking at providing a private treaty to establish the Bunbury power station and, consequently, to be in a position to offer energy at a reasonable price to allow one or two smelters and other projects to be established in the south-west. There is a continuing demand for energy by many industries in the commercial and private sectors.

Again I say that no State parliamentarian can afford the luxury of dodging the issue and not making known at every possible opportunity what the situation is. I would hope members of the Opposition would support me in this regard. All members of the State Parliament should try to ensure that the Federal Government changes its attitude towards the advancement and development of this State.

We are geared up to go. We are not like New South Wales, whose energy system is almost non-existent. Its transport system is run down as are all its services. Its services have been neglected over the years in which it has had a Labor Government in power. It is almost a bankrupt State, because the New South Wales Government has chosen not to bite the bullet as we have done here. It has chosen to take the easy way out in order to win a few easy votes. The Government in that State is paying the price. We do not have to face up to that problem because we have bitten the bullet, which was pretty tough.

Mr Davies: You mean you hit the public's hip pocket nerve!

Mr SIBSON: Who is the best off? They are paying a little more, but are getting the service.

Mr Davies: They are paying a lot more for a lot longer and getting a lot less!

Mr SIBSON: Much progress has been made in relation to the South-West Regional Administration Office. I have a brief knowledge and understanding of how other offices work and what progress they have made, but I know more about this one. It was established in 1977 and since that date has involved itself in the community, under the administration of the South West Regional Administrator (Mr Peter Beeson) in many areas such as constant updating

of pricing of consumer goods in the south-west so that the prices do not get too far out of kilter with city prices. The member for Geraldton would agree with me because he made strong comment on that item. The south-west Regional Administration Office has had an input into the 17 shires in the region and has helped in research into Westrail, public works, national parks, steel fabrication, meat prices and many others. I have a massive list of the things in which it has been involved. It has achieved many things, some outstanding. It has brought to the region a feeling within the people of a Government presence, something that is tangible—

Mr Davies: A Big Brother presence!

Mr SIBSON: —that can be seen and used. The regional administrator, his assistants and the other staff, mix in the community. They are seen as human beings, which situation has brought about a far better understanding by the public throughout the south-west region, especially in Bunbury with its Government offices, departments, and institutions.

Mr Davies: What do you think of the Government's proposal to nationalise them?

Mr SIBSON: There is a problem in country and remote areas where people feel isolated from the Government and the Office of Regional Administration has brought them closer to reality. The administrator and his staff meet at the club on Friday afternoons, some play tennis or are involved in the PCA and have become accepted as people. The public, in turn, find it easier to deal with them.

Mr Davies: They do not have any real power. They still have to refer important decisions to Perth.

Mr SIBSON: I put on record my appreciation of the work that Mr Peter Beeson, our South West Regional Administrator, has done in the years he has spent in that office in the south-west. I am proud to announce that he has chosen to leave the Public Service, where he has been highly regarded and respected during a period of in excess of 30 years there, and take an interest in one of the leading real estate firms in the town. Mr Beeson has had great experience in the Public Service and is also one of the best known and respected valuers in Western Australia and takes with him a host of knowledge and understanding of Government operations. He will be a great asset not only in that field, but also to Bunbury itself and the south.

Mr Davies: To himself!

Mr Shalders: He is a fine man.

Mr SIBSON: The member for Murray mentions that he is a fine person. There are many fine people within the Public Service and it is good that the Government has these people who move into the private sector. We wish him very well in the future.

Mr Carr: Before you leave regional administration, are you happy with the Government's decision to incorporate it within the Department of Industrial Development and Commerce?

Mr SIBSON: That matter is currently under discussion.

Mr Carr: No, it was announced in this morning's newspaper.

Mr SIBSON: Many things are announced in the newspapers. If the member for Geraldton is going to take notice of what is announced in the morning paper, he should be back at primary school.

Mr Carr: So you are saying that the Government's decision, announced this morning, is not real and has not happened!

Mr SIBSON: Certain announcements have been made, but discussions are going on with the Government and the final details have yet to be worked out. I am positive that, given the time of discussion and consideration, an equitable system will be worked out.

Mr Davies: I do not think the Premier likes you denying him.

Mr SIBSON: I am confident that it will be worked out. The Opposition is upset that it has never been in government long enough to introduce such an important facet into government.

Mr Davies: I do not think the Premier likes you denying what he says.

Mr SIBSON: Technical and further education in Bunbury is vital in the interests of the south Western Australian people.

Mr Davies: Don't quote from a newspaper!

Mr SIBSON: The overall enrolment figures for the Bunbury Technical College show an increase of 10 per cent, which is significant when we talk in terms of the thousands of people attending that college. We must show more attention to and have a greater understanding of what technical education can do and provide for people, especially in country areas. In the south-west there are wide-ranging job, investment, business, career and rural opportunities. The demands on a college such as the Bunbury Technical College are many and varied, as the principal will tell us. If we are to keep young people in the country, it is

vital that we are able to produce and educate them in those areas to meet the challenges they face.

We must take a hard look at where we are going in the technical education field and give it all the support possible. We were astounded that the extensions to the Bunbury Technical College were not able to proceed this year, because the college was geared up to meet that challenge. I have taken the matter up with the Premier and will be pressing him again to ensure that the envisaged programme that was to proceed in the last Budget will do so in the new Budget. There is also the perennial argument in Bunbury about a new courthouse and the time has come when the people of Bunbury and the south-west deserve one. I drove past the courthouse the other day and it was quite scandalous to see people standing in the street including some very respectable citizens.

Mr Blaikie: They could not have been too respectable!

Mr SIBSON: These people were summoned to court for a slight misdemeanour or were perhaps friends or witnesses.

Mr Davies: You mean the Government has been in power for 10 years and you have been a member for longer, and you have still got that disgraceful position!

Mr SIBSON: The member for Victoria Park remembers what happened to the Bunbury Courthouse when the Tonkin Government came in. They said they would give it to Kalgoorlie. That happened in 1971. The member was part of that decision.

Mr Davies: Ten years later it still has not done that. What a record!

Mr SIBSON: The Bunbury people want a courthouse. The member for Victoria Park has the audacity to stand up here and criticise when he was in Cabinet and took the courthouse away from Bunbury.

Mr Davies: Respected citizens are still meeting in the street. It's absolutely disgraceful!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SIBSON: Another very pressing matter in my electorate concerns the small, but significant, fishing industry. There are a reasonable number of boats—in the twenties—operating out of Bunbury and the conditions at the jetty are, I believe, the most atrocious in Western Australia. The jetty is one of those peculiar constructions that is about twice as high as a jetty should be. The boats can pull alongside it all right but the

task of getting the fish onto the jetty is something like one would expect to see in a circus. Once a boat has pulled alongside the jetty the other boats have to tie up alongside it and the fishermen have to carry the fish from the second boat across the first boat and then put the catch on a skyhook to hoist it to the jetty. No other facilities are available.

The Public Works Department has designed a plan for a new facility and it has been given priority. This is one of the other aspects I will refer to the Premier, in his capacity as Treasurer, in order that he may give earnest consideration to this matter in the forthcoming Budget.

I now turn to tourism, which is a subject I have mentioned in this House before. I have a great interest in tourism. We in Western Australia, and particularly the south-west, can do a lot more than that which is being done at present for tourism. I do not want to be accused of denigrating the people already in the industry, whether in the private sector, local authorities, tourist information centres, or in fact the State Department of Tourism.

Recently I spent about four weeks in the Eastern States visiting New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria and it occurred to me there was a general reduction of the number of people travelling between Western Australia and the Eastern States. I did not see one vehicle with a Western Australian registration plate while I was in the east, so it became obvious to me that the number of people travelling by car across the Nullarbor has reduced quite considerably. Since my return I have noted the number of Eastern States vehicles travelling in Western Australia, particularly in the south-west, and I consider that number has dropped quite considerably. It is reasonable to assume that driving a vehicle and pulling a caravan across the Nullarbor has become too costly. Therefore, we have to look at other ways of promoting the tourist industry.

One thing I learned in New Zealand—and it applies also in England, America, and Australia—is that a large number of organised tours operate in the country. I know a lucrative business of this nature is operating in Western Australia but I feel this is one area in which we can expand considerably. It is not just a matter of buying more tourist coaches or setting up more tours. We have to sell package tours into the regional areas, and not only in the Perth metropolitan area. When I travelled overseas I found that people thought the only place in Western Australia was Perth.

Mr Coyne: There are other areas such as Meekatharra and Sandstone.

Mr SIBSON: The member for Murchison-Eyre would be only too pleased to show people around his electorate. He has already offered to take me there and show me around.

I believe we have to get into the American and Japanese markets because there are millions of people in those countries who have money to enable them to travel and who are looking for places to visit.

A myth still exists, particularly in the Eastern States, and in New Zealand, America, and Japan, that on the other side of the Swan River there is nothing but sand and flies.

Mr Davies: North of the river—you would be right.

Mr SIBSON: I feel tourism is an area in which we can expand. There is no limit to what can happen in this area and the industry could double over a short period of time if we market Western Australia.

Mr Davies: Do something about air fares.

Mr SIBSON: That is a matter—

Mr Coyne: What is wrong with air fares?

Mr Davies: They are atrocious.

Mr SIBSON: The member for Victoria Park is trying to be facetious.

Mr Davies: No he is not.

Mr SIBSON: The concern about air fares is in respect of people leaving Australia, not those people coming into Australia.

Mr Carr: How about internal air fares? That is where the scandal is.

Mr Davies: It is outrageous and the Minister will take no action. That is where the scandal is.

Mr SIBSON: I am talking about bringing tourists into Western Australia. In recent days we have seen a situation occur in which people are able to travel interstate at a reduced air fare.

Mr Coyne: It is \$260 return. There is nothing wrong with that.

Mr SIBSON: Here again the member for Victoria Park is clutching at straws.

Mr Davies: I am behind you. If you do something about air fares we will be 100 per cent behind you. It is scandalous at the moment. It is a rip-off.

Mr SIBSON: The member for Victoria Park proceeds to direct the debate away from where it is heading. I am talking about Western Australia being promoted overseas and progressively increasing its tourist potential. We must allay the

myth that Western Australia has nothing to offer apart from Perth.

We must promote regional areas by showing people that Western Australia has many places of interest to offer which are outside the Perth metropolitan area and which we know they will enjoy.

Mr Davies: People come from America and cannot afford to fly across Australia.

Mr SIBSON: Before Perth became known as the "City of Lights" it was unknown around the world. That was one of the lucky breaks which put Perth on the map. It was then that Perth became linked with Sydney and Melbourne and we experienced some success in bringing tourists to Perth. I am emphasising the point that we should be concentrating on promoting our regional areas in an effort to make those towns which service regional areas more viable as a result of income from the tourist trade. This would enable the towns to become better able to provide services and employment. An influx of people into an area generally makes it more sound and secure, and this could be done by bringing in more and more people who are prepared to spend money in the tourist industry, the hotel industry, the restaurant industry—

Mr Bertram: The casino industry.

Mr SIBSON: I learned, while travelling overseas, that people like to shop. Some people say that people who travel do not like to shop. However, my experience is that when people travel they like to take home presents for their children, relations and friends. So people do shop. Another point I noticed is that they like to shop at odd times. Times which come to mind are 8.00 a.m. when waiting for a bus, or at lunch time while waiting for something to happen, or in the evening when they are just wandering about.

I have discussed this matter with the Minister for Tourism, and he is well aware of it. I make the point that this has not only to do with the Department of Tourism; it is up to the people in the industry to realise the potential, to get out and get going, and to convince the people that we have something to show them. I am referring to places well beyond the bounds of the metropolitan area.

In the few minutes remaining to me I would like to refer to the denigration of some of the very good things we have. It seems to be popular today for people to denigrate everything. It does not matter whether we are referring to a person, a company, an association, an industry, or some aspect of our community, in some peoples' mind there is almost an obsession to denigrate it. This is doing our society no good.

Mr Carr: Trade unions seem to be denigrated a lot more than they probably deserve.

Mr Coyne: Not enough!

Mr SIBSON: That could be true, but a debate on this matter could extend for hours. I will just say briefly that the only people who will solve the problem are the trade unionists themselves. The trade unionists will have to stand up and say that they do not like the type of leaders they have at the moment. They have to insist that their leaders are the chaps off the floor and not the academics. I could show members a letter written by Mr Peter Cook which would make the ordinary trade unionist cringe. I have no objection to unions; I have been a unionist myself, and the secretary of a union branch. I believe union membership is good, but it is good only if the unionists ensure that the men off the floor become the executives. Academics from universities and other places should not be in the top positions.

I am absolutely appalled at the denigration of the Police Force because I believe it is creating a breakdown in the fabrication of our society. Probably there will always be some corruption in the Police Force, but there is good reason for that—the Police Force is made up of human beings. That is the reason that there is corruption, but the vast majority of members of the Police Force are honest, sincere, hard working people.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr SIBSON: It is dreadful to hear people in our community denigrating the Police Force, and politicians cannot escape blame in this regard. I have heard members in this place—members from both sides of the political fence—denigrate the Police Force. We know we have one of the best Police Forces in the world, and yet some people will denigrate policemen who are trying to do a job. It is difficult for the policemen to do their job properly when the morale of the whole Police Force has been shattered by the criticism of members of the public. Members of the Police Force are now reconsidering their position. They are saying, "Why should we put up with this?"

It is surprising how many ex-policemen are now in fairly high positions in companies or in private business for themselves. They have decided to leave the Police Force because of the denigration. I have spoken to many of these people, and the most common reason given is the continual denigration of the Police Force and the fact that all policemen are lumped together and considered to be like the few who do not do the right thing. Many policemen are now operating their own shops, hotels, and the like. A friend of mine who

left the Police Force for the reasons I have given now operates a hotel.

I am not saying that complaints should not be made in genuine cases. Certainly members of Parliament have a responsibility to bring up evidence of any problems within our community. If anyone knows a policeman who has done the wrong thing, he should do something about it if he can produce some factual evidence.

Mr Bertram: What can they do about it?

Mr SIBSON: What we should not do is to use innuendo and the privilege of Parliament to talk about something when we do not know the full facts. I have had people come to me and say, "What is your Government going to do about our Police Force? It is terrible; we have all these hundreds of policemen streaming over to Northbridge every night to get their little pay packets". That is a whole lot of rubbish.

Mr Pearce: How do you know?

Mr SIBSON: I have sufficient faith in human nature—and certainly a lot more than does the member for Gosnells—to know that we can trust the majority of the Police Force.

Mr Pearce: Have you any factual evidence to show that one or two policemen do go to Northbridge to collect their pay packets? The member is standing up here and saying that one or two do it, and at the same time he is saying people should not use parliamentary privilege in this way.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Tubby): Order!

Mr SIBSON: The member for Gosnells supposedly has a good command of the English language. Certainly he is better than I can ever hope to be, but he always misses the point. I suppose he will say that is because I do not talk in his English. Perhaps I can accept that, but I want to make the point that these things are being said all the time. All I am saying is that if anyone knows of such instances, and has evidence to this effect, he should do something about it.

Because of this denigration of the Police Force, the public are coming to believe that it is corrupt, and this is not true. The member for Gosnells has tried once again to misconstrue what I am saying. If that is not so, then he is totally ignorant.

Mr Pearce: First you praise and then you blame.

Mr SIBSON: I would like to make a brief comment on some words spoken by the Deputy Prime Minister. You will recall, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Tubby), that a few weeks ago some things were said about the Deputy Prime Minister under parliamentary privilege. He was

interviewed on radio about 10 days ago, and although I do not have a full transcript of what he said, the gist of his remarks was that members of Parliament should not be able to use the privilege of Parliament—especially under the Westminster system—to make accusations or to offer to produce documents without proof beyond all reasonable doubt of the truth of what they are saying.

Mr Carr: You did not know that Hayden offered to produce those documents in the Federal Parliament today and the Prime Minister would not allow it.

Mr SIBSON: That is another matter.

Mr Carr: It is the same matter as that which you are talking about.

Mr SIBSON: At the time Mr Hayden was asked to produce those papers he could not do so. It is all very well if Mr Hayden has come up with them now; but the point is, initially he said he had the documents when in fact he did not. If he has them now, that is irrelevant. He may well have stumbled across them; but he could not produce them in the Parliament on that particular day in order to prove he had substantial evidence in that regard. However, I did not wish to get into that argument or get bogged down in that particular incident. I used the words of the Deputy Prime Minister simply to illustrate the present situation and I shall talk about that in general terms, because that is what is important.

I abhor the denigration of people within our community, whether they be individuals, members of organisations such as the Police Force, a church, or any other institution. I do not think I have the privilege, nor do I think you, Sir, or anyone else either from this side of the House or opposite or even outside the House, has the right to enter the community and say, "I know things about that person or organisation and I can prove them" unless he can in fact do so, because such behaviour erodes the fibre of our society.

No longer can people trust others, because they are aware material can get into people's hands and, by innuendo, under the privilege of Parliament, or in some other way, it can be used against them quite undeservedly.

What I am saying applies particularly to the Police Force, although many other organisations and institutions are in a similar position. We should uphold the true traditions and great performance of our Police Force, because it offers security to the community. The society in which we live is safer and better if the people in it look up to and respect the Police Force.

If we are not careful we will reach the situation where the police themselves will be very wary about entering certain areas. Indeed, this occurs to some extent now. An example can be seen when police are involved in a domestic argument. In that situation they are very wary, because if they help the participants in a domestic dispute, the next day they may be in trouble, because when things have calmed down, everyone blames the police. There are many instances where that has occurred. Therefore, we have to reassess the way in which we deal with this sort of situation, because we do not want to arrive at the position where the morale, solidarity, and strength of the Police Force is denigrated to such an extent that the individual members of it find it difficult to uphold the traditions in which they believe. If such a situation arises, it will reflect on the rest of the community.

Some members may just shrug their shoulders and say that the member for Bunbury has made wild accusations about this. However, I believe what I am saying is important and factual. I do not think any member of this House can deny that denigration within our community in general is very bad and the denigration of such important institutions as the Police Force is a very real problem, because it is creeping through society like cancer. It has to stop. Ways must be found to deal with people who make accusations by innuendo or by using parliamentary or other privileges. If such people cannot provide proof of what they are saying, they should be dealt with. If action is not taken we will arrive at a position in which, for example, people will not want to enter Parliament.

Members will recall what has happened here and the way in which the Premier of the day has been castigated in this place. If one was in a comfortable job outside the House, one would not want to enter Parliament if one knew one could be subject to that sort of treatment. Indeed, people do not even need to enter Parliament to be castigated in that way, because we have seen it happen frequently not only in this place, but also in other places and through the media. I accept the media claims it writes only what it sees and hears. That may be the case, but reporters do not always ask enough leading questions to ensure the information they obtain is factual. I nearly let the Press out that time!

Unless society comes to grips with this problem, not only will institutions such as the Police Force be denigrated, but also the parliamentary system will suffer.

MR EVANS (Warren) [5.07 p.m.]: I should like to preface my remarks by extending my good

wishes to the members for Nedlands and Swan in their recent election to this place. I trust their settling in period has been easy and the transition smooth. They will find, as the rest of us did, that the difficulties experienced during that period are short-lived and they will look back on that time with pleasure.

I should like to refer to two matters which have found their way to my office in recent months. The first of these refers to the castigation of people who receive unemployment benefits. Shortly after the period the Whitlam Government was in office, the term "dole bludger" developed into a syndrome. Members opposite actively propagated that term, although I believe only one member of this Parliament actually used that phrase. The attitude of members opposite was very marked in this regard.

In recent months some people in receipt of unemployment benefits have been termed dole bludgers and the people using that term have not taken the trouble to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the person to whom they are referring. A little thought on the part of the person using that term would have provided the opportunity to understand the devastating effect of unemployment on young people. In the main, all those young people want is a job. They want to work and nothing else. It is devastating for young people to be unable to work and take their proper places in society. To then be labelled as "dole bludgers" or "cheats" makes the experience even more traumatic.

At the same time I am aware of instances of fraud in the claiming of social service benefits. I do not condone that, nor would any member of this House. However, I do not condone other aspects of fraud and I shall draw a comparison between them and the fraudulent receipt of social security benefits.

The first instance relates to the fraudulent activities of some members of the medical profession. It is claimed the total bill in that regard exceeds \$1.5 million; but that would be a very conservative estimate. Other reports I have read indicate it is much higher than that. The second comparison I would draw relates to tax avoidance. The amount involved in that situation probably exceeds \$1.5 million and I shall examine ways in which this occurs.

A circular which I received through the post prompted me to raise this matter in the Address-in-Reply debate. This circular proudly announces, "You can have 200 legal ways to reduce tax for only \$10", which is the cost of the advice. It goes on to say, "That is more tax saving ideas than

your accountant will give you in a year, but costing less than half your time." It then lists some interesting methods to reduce taxation as follows—

How to make the cost of babysitting tax deductible.

How to save tax by charging below market rentals to relatives.

How to make a loss on the sale of a private car tax deductible.

How assigning your income to a third party can reduce tax to 1 per cent.

How to make the cost of your home's furniture tax deductible.

How to make the cost of a wife's hair styling tax deductible.

How to legally avoid stamp duty.

And so the list goes on. It is incredible that this sort of activity is condoned in our society. I should imagine people we know quite well would use some of these methods to reduce their tax bills.

The point I am making is, on the one hand, I have received a complaint in my office about dole cheats, but, on the other hand, I received a circular pointing out the ways in which tax can be avoided. That is certainly a double standard. Those who can afford to pay tax can afford to dodge it and, as a result, their lawful commitments towards running the community are avoided legally.

What is more, it is those people who can least afford to pay who are bearing their share of the cost of paving stones, telegraph wires, and all the other public facilities which are necessary and to which we should all contribute. The comparison I have drawn is rather interesting and it is one which should be raised in this place.

I should like to take this opportunity also to mention the problems which have occurred in areas affected by the clearing bans legislation. I refer to the water catchment areas which have been the subject of legislation and regulations which preclude the clearing of land for farming purposes. The initial criticism of the Government about the secrecy which surrounded this legislation was justified completely. There was criticism also of the way in which the legislation was bulldozed through and the lack of research which accompanied its drafting and implementation. Indeed, the jackboots were certainly applied.

The total lack of research carried out at that time indicated the Government was not aware of the problems and did not know the effects of its decision. It did not even know the number of

people who would be involved. The people living in the catchment areas were not even aware of the correct boundaries. That is the background against which that legislation was introduced. The fears we expressed have manifested themselves and have increased with the administration of this legislation and its regulations.

A multiplicity of Government departments and authorities are involved. The last amendment to the legislation included the involvement of the Rural Adjustment Authority which means that now six authorities are involved in resolving compensation claims and making adjustment payments to farmers in catchment areas. The departments are the Public Works Department; the Forests Department, which invariably is involved to the extent of assessing timber; the Lands Department; the Valuer General's Department; the Rural Adjustment Authority; and the Titles Office. There is an automatic progression of an application for compensation from one department to another which means a considerable waste of time. In many cases it takes two years for an application to be processed.

With this plethora of Government departments the delays are compounded to the disadvantage of the individuals who need assistance—the people displaced. In many cases the farmers involved took up their land not just with the encouragement of the Government of the day, but with its full support. This occurred during the heady days when a million acres a year were released and farmers took the opportunity to settle in those areas—but they are now being penalised. In those heady days the community saw fit to throw open large areas of land and to encourage farming of that land. If the rules of the game are to be changed by the community it is not the farmers who should foot the bill, but the community. No point can be made in saying that these farmers went to these areas of their own volition. They were encouraged by the community to do so; concessions were dangled in front of them as encouragement.

The responsibility of any Government is not to ensure that individuals affected by a change of attitude within the community bear the brunt of that change.

Farmers at the greatest disadvantage are those with properties not fully developed. At the time of clearing bans their properties were only partly cleared and now they cannot develop their properties to a viable enterprise. The only manner by which they can obtain land is by purchasing land in an area not the subject of clearing bans, or by purchasing land from someone in the area who has relinquished his land to settle in an area

where clearing bans do not apply. Bearing in mind the six Government authorities to deal with applications, the farmer involved must find another farmer prepared to sell some of his viable land, otherwise he will not survive. Frequently this disadvantaged farmer must deal with agents, whether they be his own or those instructed by a vendor. As well he must satisfy his bank manager or some financial institution that what he intends to do will be viable, and to do that is not easy. The farmer must do these things thoroughly and in accordance with the demands of the world of finance and commerce. At times such farmers must employ private valuers. With these many complex tasks in front of him, frustration results.

Since the last session of Parliament I have received many complaints from individuals and organisations about the way these matters are being handled. Agents have complained that they have experienced difficulty with conveyancing, and financial institutions have complained that they have experienced difficulties.

I will draw attention to three complaints; I believe they highlight the points people involved in this situation want to make. In the first example, the amount of compensation offered escalated from \$60 000 to more than \$120 000 over two years of negotiation. That disparity is just too much to accept even allowing for the 10 per cent variation that is claimed to be applicable.

A property about 20 kilometres east of Manjimup was sold eventually to the Public Works Department for \$385 per hectare of bushland, and that figure was three times the original offer. This sort of disparity is occurring all the time. The negotiation for that land at Manjimup carried on for 18 months and involved the owner and his agents. I am sure members appreciate the frustrations experienced by people negotiating with Government departments.

Members should remember that preference is not given to these disadvantaged farmers when they apply for conditional purchase releases in other areas. Surely they should receive some preference to enable them to obtain land available in other localities—they have been displaced through no fault of their own. Land boards do not recognise the circumstances of these farmers, and I can testify to that after attending two hearings.

The second example is of a farmer who followed to the letter the advice of the department. He sought to purchase a farm close by, but it was two months before he received a reply to his request, and during that time the farm was sold to someone else. Another property became available on which the farmer obtained

an option, but he could never exercise it. The vendor was prepared to accept the option, but the Rural Adjustment Authority never replied to the request for urgent consideration of that option. It should be noted that the cheapness of the two properties was something that could not be repeated. All this would have been sufficient to deter totally any person in this situation, but the farmer concerned brought to the notice of the authority the fact that a farm in the Gordon River area was available. However, the disparity between the authority's valuation of the farm, and that of the farmer, was \$70 000. The farmer just was not prepared to accept the authority's valuation, and the authority was not prepared to examine the matter further—a stalemate was reached. In fact, the valuations should have been reversed.

The third example relates to formerly Crown land, a timber reserve, included in a Class "A" reserve after being located by the farmer. The Department of Agriculture indicated that 1 800 acres would be sufficient for a viable operation. The farmer concerned made his application, but the loss of time in even having the proposal examined was so great that the deal fell through. The hapless owner is still in possession of another single option, but the authorities concerned will not accept that the farmer receive compensation for injurious affection and certainly will not accept the valuations put forward by the farmer. No reason has been submitted to suggest that the proposal by the farmer is not reasonable, and the farmer's frustration therefore continues. It is the same frustration felt by many farmers in the clearing bans areas, a frustration which is ongoing.

The Government sneaked the legislation through. It allowed the farmer groups to disperse to some extent so that it could deal with individuals in a piecemeal fashion; it did not want to have consistency. As a result we have cumbersome compensation methods and resentment of the ongoing delays. The result of the Government's action will be a lasting monument to it.

The National Parks Authority does not allow dogs to enter caravan parks controlled by it. Such a situation may not seem to be earth shattering, but I will refer to a specific instance where disadvantage has occurred. The Pemberton National Park is located at the edge of the Pemberton township, and the absurd situation has arisen that while caravan park users cannot take their dogs with them into the national park caravan park, dogs from the town are free to enter the national park. The rangers say the dogs

disturb the wildlife of the area, and that even if caravan park users were allowed to have their dogs, but on a leash, the dogs could be let loose when the rangers turned their backs, with the possibility of damage being caused to wildlife.

Members would be aware that retired people often have an affection for their dogs akin to that for their children. These retired people will not return to a caravan park to which they are not allowed to take their pets. There are a number of examples of caravan park users who have for successive years gone to the caravan park at the Pemberton National Park, but because they can no longer take their pets with them they have said, "There is no way we will go back to that caravan park." That has been the last anyone has seen of them. The decline in the number of caravanners going to the area can be corresponded to the decline in revenue to the town and, of course, the National Parks Authority. It is patently obvious that a special regulation should apply in situations which are at present utterly ludicrous. I have asked the Minister responsible whether it is intended to implement the recommendations of the Select Committee of Inquiry into National Parks and I am hopeful that the matter I have raised will receive appropriate attention. At present the situation at the Pemberton National Park is galling to the tourist bureau and caravan park users alike.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool) [5.30 p.m.]: I wish to discuss a few matters in the course of this Address-in-Reply debate and the first concerns decentralisation. I asked a question today about this matter and whilst the answer does not give me very much information I am concerned that there seems to be a tendency for all Government departments, whether it be for prestigious reasons or otherwise, to install themselves in buildings in St. George's Terrace.

A sensible move would be for Government departments to divest themselves in establishments in the suburbs. Most people seem to have their own vehicles and if that is not the case the public transport system usually operates below maximum capacity to outer city areas during peak periods. I think this matter justifies examination by the Government.

It is my understanding that two or three departments which are at present located in Stirling Street will soon move to St. George's Terrace. It is also my understanding that the rates per square metre for rental of the premises will cost up to \$150 per annum. That is approximately twice the rate for the offices in Stirling Street. Therefore, apart from centralising, that move will cause an additional expense to the taxpayers.

It can be said that if there is a move to the suburbs there may be some inconvenience caused to some people. One has only to note the Department of Agriculture with its move to Jarrah Road, South Perth and the Forests Department further out, to understand that such moves are successful.

The Education Department is to be reassembled shortly in East Perth, in one building. I do not wish to criticise that department because its employees have been located in shocking conditions for so long and they deserve a break, but I feel they could move further afield.

When the motor vehicle instrumentality was set up some years ago and I was Minister for Traffic Safety, we considered the possibility of establishing that instrumentality in a multiple building near the major shopping centre in Belmont. Although it was in my territory, I was approached by the Belmont Shire Council, and considered this on behalf of the Government. I was prepared to recommend that this be done because that is one department which, because of its mobility, could be creating traffic hazards in Mount Street.

Government departments could be established in South Perth, Victoria Park, or Subiaco. We should not be congregating our activities within the central area of Perth. We should shift our departments into the suburbs, although to a lesser extent than that which has been created in Canberra. The departments have been scattered all around that capital and it certainly helps to break up the concentration of population and traffic within the city. However, this does not seem to be an approach favoured by the present Government. Whilst the Government may not be encouraging departments to move to the central business area, it is doing nothing to encourage decentralisation.

I will certainly take the opportunity to peruse various papers in the department of the Minister to ascertain the number of instrumentalities and their present locations.

I asked how many Government departments and instrumentalities were in non-Government owned buildings in St. George's Terrace and whether, in future, departments were likely to be shifted into the terrace. The Minister replied that the information sought was not readily available and would take considerable time to collate. He said he was sure I would agree with him that he would not be prepared to make staff available to do this, but he would make the records available to me for perusal.

As soon as I have the opportunity to do so I will look at the records in order to ascertain what the Government could save if it were prepared to move out of the city area.

Yesterday I asked a question of the Minister for Transport concerning what means exist for navigating the Swan River upwards from Barrack Street Jetty by passenger-carrying ferries at night. I feel that there could be some loss of human life or some form of injury in the near future because it is only a short time since a ferry struck the Garratt Road Bridge.

The problem is one of elementary navigation. In the upriver stretches black and red topped posts are used to indicate the channels and they can be followed fairly easily by visual navigation. However, when ferries travel upriver during the evening they must direct lights on the posts in order to pick them up. If there is a loss of light the vessels may run into a post or bank and cause a disaster because it does not take long for a craft to fill with water. Some passenger ferries carry up to 120 passengers.

A Mr Binney, who was a skipper of the *Vlaming*, told me that on a number of occasions, despite the fact that he knew the river very well, he finished up on a bank or a little off course, due to the movement of water at certain times of the season.

The river is not a wide stretch of navigable water and quite often when there has been a great downpour, such as in February this year, there is some movement of banks and lakes. Therefore, craft have to be navigated within a restricted area.

Ferries are often sponsored by vineyards and the trips are made in the evening. I would suggest that if a collision were to occur in darkness it could create panic because the passengers would have been enjoying their visit to the vineyard and would not be as alert as they would be at other times.

I asked the Minister for Transport whether there were any navigation lights on the bridges or spit posts on the navigable section of the Swan River and whether it was the intention of the Government to improve navigation aids. I asked

also whether there have been any accidents during navigation reported to the Harbour and Light Department other than the ferry hitting the Garratt Road Bridge. I asked also whether the personnel controlling craft carrying passengers upriver had been required to possess any special qualifications.

I know the river well and I suggest that there is a need for better navigation. I am sure that the approaches to the causeway, the Garratt Road Bridge, and the Guildford Bridge should have ample navigation lights to indicate major channels, but there is no doubt that there may be problems in other areas.

The situation is most unsatisfactory. I was told that the appropriate certificates are required under the Western Australian Marine Act for personnel controlling craft. I suppose they have a bosun's certificate or something which allows ample scope, but whether or not they have abundant knowledge of the river is a question which must be answered. It does not appear to be clear as to whether they do and there has been no indication of this from the Minister's answer.

I suppose anyone can take a craft upriver if he has a couple of spotlights and he will get back with a bit of luck, but that is not good enough when we are dealing with members of the public. The department should review this matter.

Leave to Continue Speech

Mr JAMIESON: I move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at a later stage of the sitting.

Motion put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

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

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH: POLICE MORGUE

Security

32. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the claim made in a front page *Daily News* story of 11 March 1982 that "security at the police morgue is known to be loose"?
- (2) Can he give the House an assurance that security at the police morgue is not loose?
- (3) Is it a fact as claimed in media reports that no record is kept of the time of arrival of bodies delivered to the morgue from hospitals?
- (4) Can he confirm the accuracy of claims made in the media recently that security at the morgue is so lax that records are not kept of people entering or leaving the morgue or of doctors removing tissue or organs from bodies?
- (5) Can he provide details of the procedures that are adopted at the morgue when requests are received for tissue or organs for transplant or for teaching purposes?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A register of bodies entering and leaving the morgue has always been maintained together with other relevant details. Date of arrival has always been entered and the time of arrival has now been added.
- (4) After hours security has always been tight, access only through the security staff. During the day time, access through the main corridor involves passing the office of the security guard and the glass-fronted office of the mortuary clerk. Access at the other end of the corridor is open to pathologists, hospital and university staff, and students. It is impracticable to lock this

means of access or to provide a security watch, but access of members of the public who attend to identify or inspect bodies, the police, or anyone else is controlled via the main corridor. Until December all removal of tissues for diagnostic or transplant purposes was recorded on the post mortem report form by a forensic pathologist. Since December, separate notes on removal of tissues for transplantation have also been kept.

- (5) By instruction of the Commissioner of Public Health, the designated officer must authorise the removal of tissues following consent in writing by the relatives and the Coroner acting under the provisions of the Coroners Act. The Tissue Grafting and Processing Act is being rewritten to protect the rights of the deceased and relatives in these matters. In the interim, administrative instructions direct procedures to be as closely as possible in accordance with the proposed amendments.

NOISE: TRAFFIC

Interdepartmental Committee: Recommendations

33. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What action has been taken by the Government on the recommendations of the interdepartmental committee on traffic noise?
- (2) Is the Government procrastinating on the issue of taking effective action to combat traffic noise pollution thus ensuring that the problem will continue to escalate and detrimentally affect the health, the well being of thousands of Western Australian families?
- (3) Is he aware that local government authorities and individuals worried about escalating traffic noise are frustrated in their attempts to alleviate the problem because of a lack of effective and suitable noise abatement legislation?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) The Noise and Vibration Control Council has examined the recommendations and made further proposals for implementation. These will be sent to appropriate Ministers for consideration.
- (2) No.
- (3) No. I acknowledge that there are problems in such a complex matter involving so many different bodies. May I refer the member to the Australian Environment Council Report No. 3 of 1981. A paper on planning to avoid future noise problems is being developed by the Noise and Vibration Control Council. I recommend that the member study the Australian Environment Council Report No. 3. He might come to appreciate that traffic noise is a world-wide problem and is not confined to Western Australia. He may also find that there is no ready remedy anywhere in the world.

HEALTH

Funding: Commonwealth

34. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much money did the Federal Government provide for all health purposes for the State in the 1981-82 financial year?
- (2) Was a component included in the 1981-82 health allocation from the Federal Government for the cost of providing drugs and medications to the outpatients and inpatients at Government hospitals?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes", how much was provided for—
 - (a) outpatients;
 - (b) inpatients?
- (4) (a) If an allocation were made for the provision of drugs and medication is it likely to be sufficient; and
 - (b) if not, what is the extra cost expected to be in 1981-82?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) \$158 733 000.
- (2) Yes in so far as drugs were part of the overall allocation in (1).
- (3) (a) and (b) No specifically identifiable amount was provided for these purposes.
- (4) (a) and (b) Not applicable.

HEALTH: TOBACCO

Advertising: "G"-rated Films

35. Mr HODGE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that film cigarette advertisements are regularly shown in Perth cinemas displaying "G" rated movies suitable for children?
- (2) Will the Minister take the necessary action to ensure that in future parents can allow their children to attend the cinema without having them subjected to obnoxious cigarette commercials?
- (3) Will the Minister endeavour to see that cigarette commercials are only shown with "R" rated films so that children are not exposed to them?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. There is no law to debar cigarette advertising in association with the screening of any films.
- (3) See (2).

HEALTH: TOBACCO

Tar Levels: Voluntary Labelling

36. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that the Federal Minister for Health (Mr MacKellar) has decided to allow the tobacco industry to enter into a voluntary agreement to label cigarette packets for tar levels with a system of imprecise and ill-defined bands?
- (2) (a) Is the State Government opposed to Mr MacKellar's decision; and
 - (b) if so, what action has been taken to try and persuade him to review it?
- (3) Is he aware that there is now scientific evidence to suggest that the smoking of cigarettes yielding the lowest possible amount of tar will reduce the risk of contracting cancer?

- (4) Would smokers best be able to reduce their tar intake if they had ready access to information on the tar yield of the cigarettes they smoke, and that the logical place for this information is the cigarette packet?
- (5) Does the State Government support the recent call by the Cancer Council of Western Australia for Mr MacKellar to immediately renegotiate the voluntary agreement with the tobacco industry so as to provide precise information relating to tar content on all cigarette packets?
- (6) If Mr MacKellar fails to take action in respect of proper labelling of cigarette packets, will the State Government use any avenue open to it to endeavour to persuade the Federal Minister to adopt a more responsible approach to this important health issue?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes. As an immediate action the Federal Government is entering into a voluntary agreement with the tobacco industry in respect of labelling cigarette packets with tar levels. However, the system of defining bands for tar levels is by no means imprecise and ill-defined.
- (2) (a) and (b) The State Government supports Mr MacKellar's action, but will reconsider its attitude in the light of experience.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) No. The State Government believes that the voluntary arrangements entered into may prove to be satisfactory and considers that the type of labelling agreed to is appropriate and less confusing to the public than a more detailed system.
- (6) The State Government will not hesitate to discuss these matters with the Federal Government if the new voluntary agreement does not operate satisfactorily.
- (1) Will he confirm that radiation doses in excess of 200 microrem per hour have been measured at several homes in the Capel district?
- (2) How many homes have been found to have maximum radiation levels above—
 - (a) 200 microrem per hour;
 - (b) 100 microrem per hour?
- (3) Do the radiation levels mentioned in (2) constitute a potential health hazard to the occupants of the affected homes?
- (4) What is the cause of the high level of environmental radiation in Capel?
- (5) What action does the Government propose to take to remove the radiation hazard at Capel?
- (6) Can he confirm that radiation levels in excess of 600 microrem per hour have been measured at the Capel dairy?
- (7) Is the radiation level at the Capel dairy a potential hazard to the dairy workers and to public health?
- (8) (a) When was the Capel dairy tested for radiation levels;
- (b) who conducted the tests; and
- (c) what were the results of the tests?
- (9) If a health hazard exists at the Capel dairy, what action does the Government propose to take to alleviate it?
- (10) What maximum levels of radiation have been measured at the mineral sands processing plant at Capel?
- (11) Are workers in the mineral sands industry in Western Australia monitored regularly for radiation exposure?
- (12) How many workers in the mineral sands industry in Western Australia received radiation doses in excess of—
 - (a) 1 rem; and
 - (b) 5 rem;
 during the past five years?
- (13) On the basis of data available to the Government is his department satisfied that workers in the mineral sands industry do not face potential radiation health hazards?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes. In one house only.
- (2) (a) One;
- (b) five.
- (3) No.
- (4) Naturally occurring radioactive substances in mineral sands tailings.

HEALTH: CAPEL

Radiation: Levels

37. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (5) Mineral sands tailings contributing to elevated radiation levels are being removed by Westralian Sands Limited. The action being taken by the Government is to provide an officer to advise on removal of tailings and to measure radiation levels afterwards.
- (6) No.
- (7) No. It is assumed that the dairy referred to is the one which was referred to in newspaper reports.
- (8) (a) Measurements were made at a dairy on a farm at Capel on 12 January 1982;
 (b) an officer of the State X-Ray Laboratory;
 (c) up to 400 microrem per hour above the concrete ramps. 100 microrem per hour in the separator and switch rooms.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) 50 millirem per hour directly adjacent to stored monazite.
- (11) Yes.
- (12) (a) and (b) When this information is available it will be supplied to the member.
- (13) Yes. Recognising that all persons working with radiation in medicine, industry, and research face a potential radiation health hazard and safety measures are required to ensure that the health hazard is minimised.

HOSPITALS: TEACHING

Bad Debts

38. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much has been written off in bad debts at each of the teaching hospitals since charges for services were introduced on 1 September 1981?
- (2) Who is responsible for pursuing and collecting outstanding debts owed to Government hospitals?
- (3) Have there been any instances where legal action has been initiated in order to recover debts owing to Government hospitals by former inpatients or outpatients since 1 September 1981?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) In respect of new charges introduced since 1 September 1982, the following bad debts have been written off—

Fremantle Hospital	\$6 000
King Edward Memorial Hospital	nil
Princess Margaret Hospital	\$1 100
Royal Perth Hospital	\$ 250
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	\$2 612

- (2) Hospitals will pursue their own outstanding accounts. Debtors who have failed to respond to previous notices will be referred to—

Mercantile Collection Association—
teaching hospitals

College Mercantile Agency Pty.
Ltd.—other hospitals.

- (3) In respect of (1), no.

HOSPITALS

Outpatients: Fees

39. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much did the Government budget to collect from Government hospital outpatient fees in the financial year 1981-82?
- (2) How much has been collected to date from outpatient fees at Government hospitals?
- (3) Is it expected that the amount collected by 30 June 1982 will reach the budget figure?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) \$7 100 000.
- (2) \$3 645 122 to 28 February 1982.
- (3) Based on results to 28 February 1982, yes.

BOATS: ROTTNES FERRY "SEAFLIGHT"

Rough Conditions

40. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is his department aware of the situation that arose on the Rottneft ferry *Seaflight* during an outward trip to Rottneft on 5 January when passengers became terrified by extremely rough conditions which resulted in light fittings falling, a rail being broken, and one passenger receiving a serious shoulder injury?

(2) In view of the fact that the ferry operator disclaims any responsibility for injuries incurred on board and that during school holiday periods passengers are required to book ahead and cannot reclaim their fare at the prospect of rough conditions, has any consideration been given to banning ferry crossings to Rottneest in conditions such as those prevailing on 5 January?

not to continue is considered to be a decision for the operator, and is outside the normal charter of the Department of Marine and Harbours whose responsibility is to ensure that the vessels are seaworthy. The decision as to whether a vessel should proceed to Rottneest is the responsibility of the master concerned.

(3) If "No" to (2), is he willing to consider the need for provisions requiring operators to warn passengers of possible adverse effects under such conditions prior to departure and to guarantee a refund of fares in cases where passengers decide not to continue?

41. *This question was postponed.*

EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Funding

42. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

Mr RUSHTON replied:

(1) No. However, there is a legislative obligation for the operator to report serious injury and this particular matter is being pursued by the Department of Marine and Harbours.

(2) and (3) The suggestion that operators be required to warn passengers of possible adverse conditions and guarantee a refund of fares where passengers choose

(1) What funds have been made available to his department from the Commonwealth office of child care for allocation to early childhood services in each year since such funding became available from this source?

(2) To what areas, or agencies—Government and voluntary—have these funds been allocated in each of these years and what allocations have been made in each case?

Mr CLARKO replied:

(1) and (2)

Area	Up to Dec 1976 \$	Jan 1977 June 1978 \$	July 1978 June 1979 \$	July 1979 June 1980 \$	July 1980 June 1981 \$	July 1981 June 1982 \$ (est.)
Salaries	944 933	4 417 611	4 851 208	4 849 290	4 843 062	4 843 062
White Gum Valley Special School	6 687	18 963	15 269	17 817	18 836	20 700
Basic Child Care Course	—	—	23 804	27 068	29 253	33 000
Emergency Grant Lady Gowrie	15 000	—	—	—	—	—
Teacher Conversion Course	14 960	—	—	—	—	—
Christ the King Language Centre	—	8 898	—	—	—	—
Capital funds	—	—	—	606	—	—
National Data Base Collection	—	—	—	—	1 352	2 300
TOTALS	981 580	4 445 472	4 890 281	4 894 781	4 892 503	4 899 062

**EDUCATION: EARLY
CHILDHOOD SERVICES**

Funding

43. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) What funds have been made available to the Minister's department from the Commonwealth office of child care for allocation to early childhood services in each year since such funding became available from this source?
- (2) To what areas, or agencies—Government and voluntary—have these funds been allocated in each of these years and what allocations have been made in each case?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation has received no funding from the Commonwealth office of child care for allocation to early childhood services.
- (2) Not applicable.

**EDUCATION: EARLY
CHILDHOOD SERVICES**

Funding

44. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) What funds have been made available to his department from the Commonwealth office of child care for allocation to early childhood services and child care in Western Australia in each year since such funding became available from this source?

- (2) To what areas or agencies—Government and voluntary—have these funds been allocated on each of these years and what allocations have been made in each case?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) In the period 1976-1977 to 1980-81, a total of \$2 668 465.72 was allocated to the Department for Community Welfare from the Commonwealth Government's children's services programme. The funds were spent on a range of departmental and voluntary sector initiatives spanning early childhood services, family support, youth services, International Year of the Child activities, and experimental programmes concerned with alternatives to residential care. During the same period, the Commonwealth Government would have made a number of direct grants to voluntary organisations in this State from the same funding source.
- (2) Specific use of these funds is recorded in the annual reports of the Department for Community Welfare. I would be pleased to provide the member for Dianella with copies of appropriate sections of these reports.

**COMMUNITY WELFARE:
CHILD CARE CENTRES**

Legislation

45. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) In view of the lack of any reference in His Excellency the Governor's Speech to proposals for legislation affecting child day care, can he say whether the Government proposes to proceed with such legislation in the autumn session of Parliament?

- (2) If "Yes", at what stage of the session does he expect to be able to introduce the legislation?
- (3) If "No" to (1), does the Government intend to proceed with such legislation in the more remote future and, if so, when?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Government intends to proceed with legislation. It is under active consideration with many views and submissions to be considered before proposed legislation is finalised and introduced to Parliament.
Because of these factors, I am unable to indicate when the proposed legislation will be introduced.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: Tender Notice

46. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With reference to the public tender notice re joint venture, because there have been various tonnages quoted in the volume of LCL traffic, the latest being 350 000, will he clarify—
 - (a) the tonnage of small traffic which comes within the scope of the tender;
 - (b) if the wagon loads are included, and if so, what is the tonnage available to the joint venture; and
 - (c) at what level is the current revenue?
- (2) (a) With the general easement of other wagon load traffic not included in the joint venture, what tonnage will be open to competition by road; and
(b) what is the revenue at risk?
- (3) Is it proposed to deregulate wool?
- (4) If so, what is the tonnage and revenue which can be effected?
- (5) As Westrail will no longer accept other than wagon loads under the joint venture, how is it proposed to service people who have had the privilege of taking small consignments to unattended sidings and small attended stations?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) (a) Westrail tender documents for the joint venture identified 325 000 tonnes of Westrail parcels, LCL, and wagon load smalls traffic that would be available to the joint venture;
- (b) 325 000 tonnes including 145 000 tonnes of wagon load smalls traffic;
- (c) the revenue at risk to Westrail is approximately \$11 million.
- (2) (a) and (b) At this stage, no decisions have been made on the deregulation of other than "smalls" traffics currently handled by Westrail in wagon loads. As the land freight transport policy provides for easements to be introduced on a progressive basis, at different times, no single estimate can be provided of the tonnages and revenue involved in the long term.
- (3) If the question refers to the total deregulation of wool from the date of institution of the joint venture, the answer is "No". However, the Government land transport policy contemplates further deregulation.
- (4) 125 000 tonnes. Approximately \$4 million revenue in 1980-81 figures.
- (5) Either through the joint venture company or any other transport operator.

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: Redundancies

47. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

With reference to question 849 of Tuesday, 24 November 1981, and his reply wherein he pre-empted lower freight rates intended to generate more employment in the country—

- (a) what is the number of Westrail personnel who will become redundant in the long term; and
- (b) in what areas and industries does he see a compensating number of generated positions because of his statement of lower freight rates and user choice generating more employment?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (a) Presuming the question relates to Westrail's joint venture, it is estimated that the positions of some 850 employees involved with smalls traffic will be affected by this proposal.

The assurance has been given that no Westrail staff will be dismissed as a result of the joint venture. The positions effected will be progressively phased out through non-replacement, resignation or retirement.

- (b) The member appears to have misinterpreted my statement of 24 November 1981.

At the time I was referring to transport policy and I quote—

The policy which has been pursued, of which the partnership or the joint venture is just a continuance, relates to people in country towns being given a more effective rail service. With lower freight rates and user choice, people in country areas will enjoy a capacity to generate more employment.

I think it has been made clear that the Government's policy of deregulation, competition, and user choice is aimed at curbing the spiralling upward cost of transport. It follows that this will benefit consumers and the general taxpayer.

In a highly competitive export world the cost of products have to be kept down and restraining the transport price component must improve the producers ability to sell. If we achieve a thriving rural production industry then we will find this produces the capacity for associated country businesses to also thrive and expand the opportunities for employment.

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Accident near Merredin

48. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When will Westrail conduct a departmental inquiry into the accident near Merredin in December 1981, resulting in the death of four Westrail employees?
- (2) (a) What has been the cause of delay in holding the inquiry; and
(b) will the findings of the inquiry be made known to the public?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Westrail has fully investigated this accident and a coronial inquiry will be held on 13 May 1982.
- (2) (a) Answered by (1);
(b) findings of coronial inquiries are made public.

ABORIGINES: ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST

Parkeston Land

49. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

When was the Aboriginal Lands Trust directed to approach the Department of Lands and Surveys to excise the Parkeston land required for the Aboriginal night shelter?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

I am not sure what the member means by "directed". On 22 June 1981, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs wrote to the Secretary of the Aboriginal Lands Trust informing him that following extensive consultations with Commonwealth, State, and local authorities, a site at Parkeston and preliminary plans for a shelter had been approved.

The Aboriginal Lands Trust was requested to take the necessary steps to acquire the Parkeston property. It wrote to the Department of Lands and Surveys on the same day seeking an excision.

LAND: PARKESTON

Aboriginal Night Shelter

50. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the current situation with respect to excising that portion of land in the Parkeston area of Kalgoorlie required for the Aboriginal night shelter?
- (2) Have any objections been lodged to the excising of the land for the above purpose?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2)—
 - (a) who lodged the objections;
 - (b) what are the basis of objections; and
 - (c) when is finalisation of this matter expected so that the work may commence?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Lands Department has issued survey instructions in order that an area of approximately 36 hectares at Parkeston can be reserved for "Use and Benefit of Aborigines" with vesting in the Aboriginal Lands Trust.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) and (b) Objections to the proposed reservation have been received from the Mines Department as the land is wholly contained within approved gold mining leases and is also subject to a mineral claim application. It will be necessary for the conditional surrender of surface rights to be negotiated with the holders of the mining tenements before Land Act reservation can proceed.
- (c) An approach has been made by the Mines Department to the holders of the mining tenements.

HOSPITALS

Wage Increases

51. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What major wage increases have been agreed to or granted in the hospitals area since July 1981?
- (2) Have there been delays in the payment of these increases to the workers concerned?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2)—
 - (a) what were the delays; and

(b) what were the reasons for the delay?

- (4) If "No" to (2), what is the normally accepted elapsed time between the granting of a wage increase and the workers concerned receiving the benefit of that wage increase in their pay packets?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) State wage decision—\$6.30 per week
 Hospital Workers (Government)
 Award—8.76%
 Nurses (Public Hospitals)
 Award—10%-12%
 Nursing Aides and Assistants
 (Government) Award—10%
- (2) Some delays have occurred.
- (3) (a) Up to eight weeks from the date of issue of the order to pay by the Industrial Commission;
- (b) administrative delays associated with the promulgation of the new rates.
 Action has since been taken by the Public Service Board to advise employers of new pay rates within the week of the "Speaking to the Minutes" at the Industrial Commission. This revised procedure will expedite payment of future increases.
- (4) Not applicable.

HOSPITAL: KALGOORLIE REGIONAL

Beds, and Student Nurses

52. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many beds are currently available at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?
- (2) Is it fact that the intake of student nurses at the Kalgoorlie School of Nursing has been reduced from three intakes each year to one intake per 18 months?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2)—
 - (a) what are the reasons for the reduced intake;
 - (b) what effect will the reduction have on the availability of student and trained nurses at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) 196.

(2) The intake of student general nurses from the Western Australian School of Nursing has not been reduced. The intake of student enrolled nurses into the School of Nursing, Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, has been reduced to one intake per 18 months.

(3) (a) Two years ago the enrolled nurses' formal course was extended from 12 to 18 months and it was necessary to reduce the number of students to maintain the required proportion of student to registered nursing staff within the approved establishment.

(b) The change will release positions for the recruitment of registered nursing staff.

There will be no effect on the availability of the required number of student enrolled nurses.

EDUCATION: GUIDANCE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION BRANCH

Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital

53. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

What progress, if any, has been made by the guidance and special education branch in examining and making provision for a teacher to serve the children at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?

Mr CLARKO replied:

The need for a teacher at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital has been examined. In view of the very small number of children who spend an appreciable length of time in the hospital, it has been decided that an appointment is not justified. The administrator of the hospital has been advised of this decision.

EDUCATION: TECHNICAL

Eastern Goldfields: Electrical Pre-apprenticeship Course

54. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

(1) Is he aware that an electrical pre-apprenticeship course at the Eastern Goldfields Technical College has been postponed indefinitely?

(2) If "Yes", is it fact that the principal reason for the postponement was the lack of suitable accommodation for the lecturer?

(3) If "Yes" to (2), what steps, if any, have been taken or considered to provide accommodation and allow the course to commence as a matter of urgency?

Mr CLARKO replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Intensive discussions with GEHA. Increased accommodation has been made available to the technical college for 1982, prior to the demand for this course becoming apparent. Alternative arrangements to GEHA housing have been actively explored.

SUPERANNUATION

Funds

55. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Treasurer:

(1) How many superannuation funds are established in the State Government public sector in Western Australia?

(2) What is/are their—

(a) names;

(b) assets at 30 June 1981;

(c) average annual growth rates of assets since 30 June 1975;

(d) income in each of the five years up to and including 1980-81;

(e) asset holdings in each of the five years up to and including 1980-81 broken down into—

(i) Commonwealth Government securities;

(ii) local and semi-Government securities;

(iii) shares and debentures;

(iv) mortgages; and

(v) other;

of each of the funds?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) There are two major superannuation funds for which the information requested is readily available. They are the State Government employees superannuation fund and the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund. The information requested relating to these funds is set out below.

There are a considerable number of other smaller superannuation schemes in the public sector including those operated by the Universities and other tertiary institutions and bodies like Ngā-ā which are based upon endowment insurance policies or, more recently, managed funds where the manager is a Life Assurance company.

There is no comprehensive list of all funds of this kind readily available and the information requested could only be ascertained from the managing companies through the fund trustees. This would be a large administrative task which I do not consider is warranted.

- (2) (a) State Superannuation Fund;
 (b) \$216 455 474;
 (c) \$22 843 678;
 (d) 1976/77—\$23 794 501
 1977/78—\$27 043 809
 1978/79—\$31 455 202
 1979/80—\$35 983 146
 1980/81—\$43 444 905
 (e) (i) Commonwealth Government Securities—
 1976/77 to 1980/81—Nil;
 (ii) Local and Semi-Government Securities—
 1976/77—\$64 004 895
 1977/78—\$67 370 983
 1978/79—\$72 671 379
 1979/80—\$81 142 487
 1980/81—\$86 545 215
 (iii) Shares and Debentures—
 1976/77—\$1 913 281
 1977/78—\$2 541 024
 1978/79—\$3 462 644
 1979/80—\$3 888 318
 1980/81—\$5 037 838
 (iv) Mortgages—
 1976/77—\$2 238 600
 1977/78—\$5 134 600
 1978/79—\$8 311 306
 1979/80—\$10 902 982
 1980/81—\$12 802 012

- (v) Other—including investment in property and loans to hospitals and other bodies secured by government guarantee—

1976/77—\$44 672 279
 1977/78—\$58 232 221
 1978/79—\$72 750 106
 1979/80—\$88 319 424
 1980/81—\$112 070 409

- (2) (a) Parliamentary Superannuation Fund;
 (b) \$3 730 549;
 (c) \$264 765;
 (d) 1976/77—\$739 764
 1977/78—\$1 108 323
 1978/79—\$1 513 294
 1979/80—\$1 781 801
 1980/81—\$2 132 450
 (e) (i) Commonwealth Government Securities—
 1976/77—\$45 000
 1977/78—\$45 000
 1978/79—\$45 000
 1979/80—\$45 000
 1980/81—\$45 000
 (ii) Semi-Government Securities—
 1976/77—\$852 981
 1977/78—\$852 981
 1978/79—\$852 981
 1979/80—\$852 981
 1980/81—\$1 835 460
 (iii) Shares and Debentures—
 1976/77 to 1980/81—Nil;
 (iv) Mortgages—
 1976/77 to 1980/81—Nil;
 (v) Other
 1976/77 to 1980/81—Nil.

MINING: MOBILE COMPRESSOR UNITS

Hire by Prospectors

56. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Mines:
- (1) How many mobile compressor units are made available for hire by bona fide prospectors?
 (2) What are the locations of the units?
 (3) What was the rental income from the units in the 12 months prior to the recent increase in rental charges?
 (4) What has been the rental income from the units since the increase in rental charges?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Eight.
- (2) Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Laverton, Southern Cross, Norseman, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra.
- (3) \$4 225.
- (4) \$2 900 since 1 November 1981.

The recent increase of mobile compressor charges to \$100 per week as from 1 November 1981 was fixed to cover both the compressor replacement, as well as the maintenance costs, in order to reduce or eliminate the need to subsidise this service. The cost of a new compressor unit is of the order of \$12 500.

The prospectors have enjoyed an extremely low rental rate of \$10 per week over a period of some 33 years without any adjustments. The initial charge of \$10 per week, fixed in 1947, was a considerable figure when compared with the overall price structure at that time. This figure of \$10 per week was maintained until November 1980 when increased to \$25 per week. This barely covered the cost of average mechanical maintenance of each unit.

The cost of hiring a similar compressor unit from private hire concerns is in excess of \$400 per week, and our current fixed rate of \$100 per week can only be considered as a significant subsidy to the mining industry.

WATER RESOURCES

Headwork Charges

57. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

In view of headwork charges for a builder having increased from \$283 for 12 home units in February 1981, to \$2 882 fees for 10 home units on 10 February 1982, what reason can be given for an increase of this magnitude and can he provide a breakdown of costs taken into consideration when setting the fees?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The February 1981 charge would have covered the MWB standard building and application fees for water and sewerage. The February 1982 fees would additionally have included the building

headworks contribution, which was introduced on 1 July 1981, following extensive negotiation and agreement with developer organisations. This action was well publicised at the time.

HEALTH: HOLYOAKE INSTITUTE

Funding Assistance

58. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Holyoake Institute, which deals with the rehabilitation of persons with alcohol and drug problems, sought financial assistance from the Government to continue its work?
- (2) If so, what assistance was given?
- (3) If none, why not?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes. Holyoake has expanded its activities and has been seeking additional financial support from the Government.
- (2) and (3) The matter is under consideration.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Location and Rentals

59. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many Government departments and subdepartments are now housed in non-Government owned buildings in St. George's Terrace between Victoria Avenue and Milligan Street?
- (2) What are the range of rentals per square metre being paid for this accommodation?
- (3) (a) What other Government departments and subdepartments are housed in other buildings privately owned between Swan River, Thomas Street, and Newcastle Street projected back to the river; and
(b) where are these locations?
- (4) What are the range of rentals being paid for the accommodation defined in question (3)?
- (5) (a) Are there any other Government departments or subdepartments about to shift to St. George's Terrace; if so,

- (b) which are they, and
- (c) what is the comparison between their present rental and that to be paid for the new accommodation?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (5) The information sought by the member is not readily available and would take a considerable time to collate. I am sure the member will agree with me if I am not prepared to make staff available to extract this information.

I am prepared, however, to make the records available to the member for perusal, if required.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: GOSNELLS AND CANNING CITY COUNCILS

Hot Mix Plant

60. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) As he is aware of the recent pollution problem caused by a Hot Mix plant in Bickley Road, Beckenham, is he further aware that—

- (a) residents who complained to the Gosnells City Council were told the best way to overcome their problem was to move out of the area;

- (b) when they complained to the Canning City Council to whom they pay their rates, were advised it was not their council's problem?

- (2) In view of the answers given by these two councils to the residents, to whom do they complain should the pollution problem occur again?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) No;
- (b) no.

- (2) Complaints initially should be made to the company general manager or the most senior staff member present. This will enable immediate remedial action to be taken. Complaints may also be made to the local authority through its health surveyor or direct to the Public Health Department.

PENSIONERS

Rebates and Concessions

61. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Will he please provide details of all rebate systems and concessions granted to pensioners in Western Australia by departments and other Government agencies under his control?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Westrail

Pensioners in possession of a health benefit card issued by the Commonwealth Department of Social Security are granted one free return journey per annum within Western Australia on Westrail rail or bus services.

In addition unlimited half rate travel is provided on Westrail interstate services and Railways of Australia interstate train services between points on main trunk routes.

Blind persons receive the above concessions and in addition receive free travel for an attendant.

The concessions relate to the travel component only and exclude meals and ancillary charges.

Blind persons also receive free transport for their guide dog when accompanying the person.

Metropolitan Transport Trust

Pensioners in WA eligible for bus fare concessions pay a fare which is considerably less than the full adult fare as follows—

Section/Zone	Adult	Pensioners
Up to two sections	35c	15c
1—2 zones	70c-80c	25c
3—5 zones	\$1.10	30c
	\$1.80	
All day	\$2.50	45c

Transport Commission

- (1) Pensioner Travel Scheme
North of the 26th Parallel
Age, invalid, and widow pensioners and supporting parents in receipt of a travel concession certificate who have lived north of the 26th parallel for more than two years continuously, are entitled to one free return trip—lasting up to three months—a year to Perth by a regular passenger service.

(2) Pensioner Concessional Travel on Licensed Country Town Bus Services

Pensioners holding a travel concession card are entitled to concessional travel on licensed regular privately operated country town bus services in the following centres—

Albany
Bunbury
Busselton
Geraldton
Kalgoorlie and
Mandurah.

PENSIONERS

Rebates and Concessions

62. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Local Government:

Will he please provide details of all rebate systems and concessions granted to pensioners in Western Australia by departments and other Government agencies under his control?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

None.

PENSIONERS

Rebates and Concessions

63. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

Will he please provide details of all rebate systems and concessions granted to pensioners in Western Australia by departments and other Government agencies under his control?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) Vehicle Licence

Concession licences in Western Australia are restricted to those who are in receipt of a pension granted on medical grounds including civilian invalid pensioners, service pensioners, and those classified as totally and permanently incapacitated.

Persons classified by the Department of Social Security as civilian invalid pensioners and in receipt of a full pension qualify for a 100 per cent concession on licence fee provided their total income does not exceed the State minimum wage. A 50 per cent concession applies if the total income exceeds the State minimum wage providing a full pension is paid.

A concession held by an invalid pensioner is not withdrawn when he becomes eligible for an age pension. Also an age pensioner who was previously receiving an invalid pension and had a vehicle registered in his name whilst so classified, but did not apply for a concession, does not lose any entitlement.

Persons classified by the Department of Veterans Affairs as service pensioners and in receipt of a full pension qualify for a concession vehicle licence. A 100 per cent concession applies if total income does not exceed the State minimum wage. A 50 per cent concession applies if total income exceeds the State minimum wage.

To qualify, the applicant must have been classified as permanently unemployable or suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis—section 85(2)(a) permanently unemployable, section 85(2)(b) pulmonary tuberculosis of the Repatriation Act—prior to attaining the age of 65 years and owned a motor vehicle whilst so classified.

Persons receiving a special pension under the second schedule to the Repatriation Act, commonly referred to as TPIs, irrespective of other income qualify for a 100 per cent concession in all cases.

(2) Motor Drivers Licence

The holders of a travel concession card—TCL—or pensioner medical entitlement card—PHB 2—issued by the Department of Social Security are entitled to a concession of their motor drivers licence.

Section 47 of the Road Traffic Act 1974 provides that a 50 percent concession applies to pensioners in receipt of an age pension, an invalid pension, a widows pension, or a supporting parents benefit under the provisions of the Social Services Act 1947, as subsequently amended, or is in receipt of a service pension under the provisions of the Repatriation Act 1920, as subsequently amended, but does not include such a person who is not a pensioner within the meaning of section 4 of the National Health Act 1953, as subsequently amended.

PENSIONERS

Rebates and Concessions

64. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Will he please provide details of all rebate systems and concessions granted to pensioners in Western Australia by departments and other Government agencies under his control?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Both the Metropolitan Water Board and the Public Works Department grant rating concessions to pensioners in accordance with the provision of the Pensioners (Rates Rebates and Deferments) Act.

PENSIONERS

Rebates and Concessions

65. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Will he please provide details of all rebate systems and concessions granted to pensioners in Western Australia by departments and other Government agencies under his control?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The State Energy Commission has introduced a pensioner rebate scheme which is available to holders of a current "pensioner health benefit card"—PHB2.

The scheme relates to the electricity fixed charge of \$2.13 per month, and the full monthly rebate of \$2.13 is available if the usage is less than 220 units a

month. Over this consumption the rebate applies on a reducing scale. No rebate is given for consumption of 320 units or more per month.

The rebate is calculated on a *pro rata* daily basis to account for variation in the billing period.

PENSIONERS

Rebates and Concessions

66. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

Will he please provide details of all rebate systems and concessions granted to pensioners in Western Australia by departments and other Government agencies under his control?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

A booklet produced by the Government of Western Australia and the Commonwealth Department for Social Security, which sets out full details of the pensioner benefits available in Western Australia, is available from the State Government Information and Inquiry Centre, 32 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

I have tabled the booklet for the information of members.

The booklet was tabled (see paper No. 108).

FUEL AND ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Discontinuance of Contract Work

67. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Is it a fact that contractors associated with work being done on the North-West Shelf project have been asked to prepare estimates of the cost of discontinuing their contract work?
- (2) If so, will he indicate which facets of the project are involved?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) I am advised that Woodside has made no such request.
- (2) Not applicable.

MINING: DIAMONDS

Valuations

68. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Has the State Government engaged independent valuers to assess the value of Western Australian diamonds?
- (2) If not, is it intended to have such a valuation done before ministerial approval of the Ashton Joint Venture's marketing agreement is granted?
- (3) If the independent valuers have been engaged to assess the value of Western Australian diamonds will he provide details of the valuations?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) No independent valuer has yet been appointed. Valuation will be an ongoing function which is seen as separate from acceptance of the marketing arrangements.

WITTENOOM

Town: Closure

69. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the State Government intend to—
 - (a) close the township of Wittenoom;
 - (b) relocate the township of Wittenoom?
- (2) If the Government proposes to relocate the township of Wittenoom, will he provide details of—
 - (a) the timetable involved;
 - (b) the new site;
 - (c) arrangements to assist people to shift from Wittenoom;
 - (d) compensation to be paid to the residents of Wittenoom;
 - (e) the estimated cost of the relocation?
- (3) What is the State Government's latest estimate of the cost of work necessary to "clean up" the existing township of Wittenoom?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) The Government policy is for the existing Wittenoom township to be phased out;

(b) it is proposed to seek an expression of interest from prospective developers for the development of an integrated tourist complex adjacent to the existing townsite. In this regard, newspaper advertisements are scheduled to be placed nationally in early April 1982.

(2) (a) to (e) See (1) above.

(3) It has been determined that it is impracticable to "clean up" the existing township and therefore no estimates of cost have been undertaken.

HEALTH: WITTENOOM

Asbestos Fibres: Monitoring

70. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) When was monitoring of asbestos fibres at Wittenoom first commenced?
- (2) (a) Has the monitoring ceased;
- (b) if not, when were the latest samples collected and what were the results?
- (3) What methods of sampling were used to measure asbestos fibres in the atmosphere at Wittenoom?
- (4) At what locations in the township of Wittenoom were samples collected?
- (5) Is the Government satisfied that the methods of sampling used to monitor asbestos fibres in Wittenoom are accurate and meaningful?
- (6) By which agency or laboratory was the actual fibre count done?
- (7) (a) Was electron microscopy used in the fibre count;
- (b) if not, will he explain why this technique was not used?
- (8) What is the "fibre count" which is considered to be acceptable or safe for—
 - (a) work place locations;
 - (b) the general environment?
- (9) Will he provide details of the results of asbestos fibre monitoring in Wittenoom?
- (10) Has monitoring been carried out to measure the success or failure of clean up work done in Wittenoom since the health problems associated with asbestos tailings was identified?
- (11) How many cases are recorded of people suffering from the effects of asbestosis—
 - (a) who worked in the asbestos mines;

- (b) who lived in Wittenoom but never worked in the mine?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) 24 October, 1980 on a regular basis.
- (2) (a) No;
(b) samples are taken every sixth day—summary of fibre counts below.
- (3) Vertical elutriator.
- (4) School.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Samples from 24 October, 1980 to 28 March, 1981 by officers of the clean air section.
- (7) (a) No;
(b) it is not practicable to use this technique at the moment, but in any event it is only another means of demonstrating the presence of fibre.
- (8) (a) Crocidolite 0.1 fibres per ml.;
(b) there is no generally acceptable standard or method of testing for the general environment. Environmental standards are usually set at 100th of the acceptable occupational health exposure, but with a known carcinogenic agent, the acceptable standard for the environment is usually nil.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) No. Monitoring has continued before, during, and after clean up. Results are so variable that conclusions cannot be drawn; however, crocidolite fibres are still detectable since the clean up.
- (11) (a) 231;
(b) none.

In addition, 83 cases of mesothelioma have been identified in former Wittenoom workers and two in women not employed on the mine—one lived in the staff quarters and one in the town.

Below is a summary of asbestos fibre monitoring carried out at the Wittenoom school from October 1980 till September 1981—

Number	Date of sample	Crocidolite fibres	Fibres per ml
1	24 October 1980	Positive	(0.002)
2	25 October 1980	Positive	(0.002)
3	31 October 1980	Positive	(0.0014)
4	6 November 1980	Positive	(0.0015)
5	12 November 1980	Positive	(0.0002)
6	18 November 1980	Positive	(0.0025)
7	24 November 1980	Positive	(0.001)
8	30 November 1980	Positive	(0.001)
9	6 December 1980	Positive	(0.002)

11	18 December 1980	Positive	(0.002)
13	24 December 1980	Positive	(0.002)
14	30 December 1980	Positive	(0.003)
15	5 January 1981	Positive	(0.0007)
16	11 January 1981	Positive	(0.002)
17	17 January 1981	Positive	(0.001)
19	29 January 1981	Positive	(0.003)
20	4 February 1981	Positive	(0.001)
22	16 February 1981	Positive	(0.0007)
24	22 February 1981	Positive	(0.0006)
25	28 February 1981	Positive	(0.001)
26	4 March 1981	Positive	(0.0002)
27	10 March 1981	Positive	(0.0006)
28	16 March 1981	Positive	(0.001)
29	22 July 1981	Positive	(0.002)
30	28 July 1981	Positive	(0.0003)
31	3 August 1981	Positive	(0.002)
32	9 August 1981	Positive	(0.0006)
33	21 August 1981	Positive	(0.0006)
34	27 August 1981	Positive	(0.003)
35	2 September 1981	Positive	(0.001)
38	20 September 1981	Positive	(0.002)

Samples 10, 12, 18, 21, 23, 36, and 37 were rejected due to some forms of obvious damage to the membrane filter.

WATER RESOURCES: IRRIGATION

Ord River Scheme: Sugar Industry

71. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he table a copy of the Western Australian Government report on the sugar industry and the Ord River scheme?
- (2) How much money has been received by the State Government from the Federal Government for the Ord River project?
- (3) How much money is outstanding; i.e., has still to be received by the State Government from the Federal Government for the Ord River project?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) I seek leave to table a copy of the report "Ord River Area—Potential for a Sugar Cane Industry in Western Australia".
- (2) \$24 813 812 for Stage II comprising construction of the main dam, irrigation works, and crop handling facilities.
- (3) Under the original arrangements for Stage II, \$23 366 188. However, the Commonwealth has stated that they would consider any request for release of further funds for development at the Ord in the context of economic prospects for the project and the budgetary circumstances at the time.

The report was tabled (see paper No. 109).

SHOPPING: RETAIL STORES

Extended Trading

72. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) What type of retail stores can open for trade in Western Australia on week days

to 9.30 p.m. and on Saturdays to 5.30 p.m.?

- (2) In respect of the tourist towns extended trading Act, in which towns in Western Australia are businesses allowed to open week nights, Saturdays, Monday public holidays, and Anzac Day, etc.?
- (3) Is it necessary for a majority of retailers in a particular town or shire to agree before an application can be made by a town council or shire council to be declared a tourist town for the purposes of extended trading?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Any exempted shop under section 86 of the Factories and Shops Act which is authorised to sell goods prescribed in the Shops (Exempted Goods) Regulations.

Any privileged shop authorised under section 87 of the Act to sell goods prescribed in the Shops (Exempted Goods) Regulations.

Any small shop registered pursuant to section 88 of the Act and authorised to sell goods specified in that section.

Any shop situated north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.

Any shop located in a holiday resort and authorised under section 92A of the Act.

Any service station authorised to be on roster pursuant to section 92 of the Act.

- (2) The Shire of Greenough.
The townsites of Geraldton, Mandurah, Busselton, Denmark, Kalbarri, and Rockingham.
The localities of Rockingham Park, Safety Bay, Shoalwater Bay, and Two Rocks.
- (3) No.

MINING: DIAMONDS

World Production: Valuation

73. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) What was the level of production for the following categories of diamond products throughout the world in 1979, 1980, and 1981—
 - (a) gem stones;
 - (b) cheap gems;
 - (c) industrial diamonds;
 - (d) boart?

- (2) What was the average value (per carat) of world production of—
 - (a) gem stones;
 - (b) cheap gems;
 - (c) industrial diamonds; and
 - (d) boart—in the rough;

in 1979, 1980, and 1981?

- (3) Based upon an estimated output of 20 million carats per year, what is the assortment and valuation of Argyle diamonds expected to be?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) The information sought requires considerable research, and the member will be advised of the details by letter.

MINING: DIAMONDS

Zaire: Marketing Arrangements

74. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Has the State Government made a detailed study of marketing arrangements for diamonds entered into by Zaire since that country severed its relationships with the Central Selling Organisation?

- (2) If so—

- (a) when and by whom was the study made;
- (b) will he provide details of the study for the information of members of Parliament?

- (3) Is he aware that the leaders of Zaire's Government minerals marketing agency—Sozacom—has expressed interest in establishing closer relationships and possible marketing agreements with Australian diamond producers?

- (4) Does the State Government intend to send representatives to Zaire or invite representatives of that country to visit Western Australia before negotiations on marketing of Western Australian diamonds are finalised?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) The State Government is obtaining information on the marketing of diamonds worldwide, including those produced from Zaire.

A statement to Parliament will be made on the results of this study at the appropriate time after consideration of the marketing arrangements.

- (3) Yes. I am aware of a press report indicating interest of the Government of Zaire's minerals marketing agency, Sozacom. No formal expression of interest has been received from the Government of Zaire.
- (4) On receipt of the marketing arrangements of the Ashton Joint Venturers, a detailed examination will be made, and consideration given to a visit to a number of the world's diamond centres.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

75. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Allocation of ministerial responsibility for all Statutes, departments, authorities, and instrumentalities is currently being prepared and it is anticipated that full details for all portfolios will be published in the *Government Gazette* on Friday 2 April 1982.

The Public Service Board will compile a list of all Government boards and committees, under each portfolio, which will be tabled as soon as possible after completion.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

76. Mr BRYCE, to the Deputy Premier:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I refer the member to the Premier's answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

77. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr OLD replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

78. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General and Minister for Federal Affairs:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

79. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Works:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

80. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

81. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Please refer to reply given to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

82. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr HASSELL replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

83. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory

committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr YOUNG replied:

See page 34 of Department of Labour and Industry annual report 1981 held in Parliamentary Library.

GOVERNMENTS DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

84. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Local Government, and Urban Development and Town Planning.

Will she please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under her control?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

85. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Lands:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

86. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

See answer to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

87. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr HASSELL replied:

See reply to question 75.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Number

88. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

Will he please provide a list of all statutory authorities, boards, advisory committees, and similar Government instrumentalities, in all portfolios currently under his control?

Mr CLARKO replied:

See answer to question 75.

LIQUOR: TAX

Carriage and Packaging, and Receipts

89. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is the cost of carriage and of packaging for liquor included in the gross amount paid or payable for liquor when liquor tax is charged?
- (2) What amount was received in liquor taxes for the year 1980-81 and what are the estimated receipts for 1981-82?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Annual licence fees for the year 1980-81 were \$17 121 856.
Estimated receipts of annual licence fees for 1981-82 are \$18 315 000.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: MANDURAH ESTUARY

Algae: Research

90. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) What funds have been allocated to harvest algae and undertake research into the deterioration of and serious environmental problems in the Mandurah estuarine system?
- (2) Will further funds be allocated in the current financial year and what steps will be taken with the future allocation, if any?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) The 1981-82 Budget provided—

- (a) The Peel Inlet Management Authority with \$78 000 to harvest algae; and
- (b) the Department of Conservation and Environment with \$80 000 to finalise programmes undertaken by the Peel-Harvey Estuarine System Study (1976-80).

On 15 December 1981, my predecessor announced that the Government had approved a further \$478 000 to find the most cost-effective solutions to the problems in Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary. A sum of \$96 000 was made available to extend work being carried out during the current financial year, with the balance of \$382 000 to be spent in 1982-83 and 1983-84.

A breakdown of the above expenditure is contained in the Press release of 15 December 1981, which I will table.

- (2) The above allocations are considered adequate for the research programmes currently being initiated. If the results of this research indicate the need for further expenditure, the Government will consider the needs at that time.

DISCRIMINATION: SEXUAL

Laws and Practices

91. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) In what respects do the laws and practices of Western Australia fall short of the standards set by the 1980 convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women?
- (2) What views has Western Australia expressed to the Federal Government on the provisions of the convention?
- (3) On what occasions, in what circumstances, at what level and with what results have consultations taken place between the Western Australian and Federal Governments concerning the ratification of the convention?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The laws and practices of Western Australia and other States and the Commonwealth in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women are presently being examined by the meeting of Ministers on Human Rights with a view to Australia's ratification of the convention and compilation of Australia's report as required by article 18 of the convention.
- (2) The proceedings of those ministerial meetings and Government to Government correspondence are confidential.
- (3) See answer to (1) above.

DISCRIMINATION: SEXUAL

Legislation

92. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

Has the Government considered passing legislation to create antidiscrimination machinery, as the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia have done?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The matter of employment discrimination committees being established on a statutory basis has been discussed at several Ministers for Labour Conferences.

Western Australia is opposed to this principle and has informed the Commonwealth accordingly. This decision was made after the national labour consultative committee had provided reports to the Federal Government which were then brought before State Ministers for consideration.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Indigenous and Tribal Populations: Ratification of Convention

93. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Did his predecessor write to the Prime Minister on 17 June 1974, to inform him that Western Australia agreed to the ratification of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 107—Indigenous and Tribal Populations, 1957?
- (2) On what occasions, in what circumstances, at what level and with what outcome have discussions or consultations subsequently taken place between the Western Australian and Federal Governments concerning this convention?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Senior officers of the Departments of Labour and Industry of the Commonwealth and all States have met on several occasions since, but unless the Commonwealth—in its Territories administered—and all States, are in a position to agree to ratify—Queensland is not—then Australian cannot ratify.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Employment Discrimination Committees: Legislation

94. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

On what occasions, in what circumstances, at what level, and with what results have consultations taken place between Western Australian and Federal Governments concerning a legislative basis for the national and State employment discrimination committees established pursuant to International Labour Organisation Convention No. 111—Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958, which entered into force for Australia in June 1975?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The matter of employment discrimination committees being established on a statutory basis has been discussed at several Ministers for Labour Conferences.

Western Australia is opposed to this principle and has informed the Commonwealth accordingly. This decision was made after the national labour consultative committee had provided reports to the Federal Government which were then brought before State Ministers for consideration.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Human Rights Conventions: Nonratification by Australia

95. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) In what respects do the laws and practices of Western Australia fall short of the standards set by those International Labour Organisation conventions which the International Labour Office lists as basic human rights conventions but which Australia has not yet ratified, viz.—

No. 135—Workers' Representatives, 1971.

No. 141—Rural Workers' Organisations, 1975.

No. 151—Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978 and

No. 156—Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981?

- (2) What views has the Western Australian Government expressed to the Federal Government on the provisions of each of these conventions?
- (3) On what occasions, in what circumstances, at what level and with what results have consultations taken place between the Western Australian and Federal Governments concerning each of these conventions?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (3) No States have agreed to ratify conventions 135 or 141. Western

Australia has advised the Commonwealth Minister that it agrees to ratification of convention 151. Convention 156 which was adopted by the International Labour Organisation in 1981 is currently under consideration by all States. Further research is required before Western Australia's position can be determined.

In respect to convention 135 there is uncertainty on the extent to which workers' representatives should be identified for the purposes of the convention. Additionally, the scope of facilities provided by the convention are beyond existing practice in Western Australia.

The Commonwealth Government has concluded that convention 141 applies particularly to developing countries where organisations representing rural workers have not been established or, if they have, are in the formative stages of development only. The approach adopted in the instrument does not lend itself to adaptation to the Australian legal frameworks and institutional arrangements in the labour area and ratification would not be possible without quite fundamental changes to the Australian industrial relations system. An area of concern to Western Australia is the definition of "rural worker" which includes self-employed persons and others who are not within the context of workers for the purposes of industrial awards.

There have been a number of meetings at senior officer level of the Commonwealth and all States to consider these conventions. They have also come under the attention of Commonwealth and State Ministers' conferences at different times.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATIONS

Civil and Political Rights: Laws and Practices in Australia

96. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) In what respects do the laws and practices of Western Australia fall short of the standards set by the 1966

international covenant on civil and political rights which Australia signed in December 1972 and ratified in August 1980?

- (2) What views has the State Government expressed to the Federal Government on the provisions of this convention since it entered into force in March 1976?
- (3) On what occasions, in what circumstances, at what level and with what results have discussions or consultations taken place between the State and Federal Governments concerning this convention?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The laws and practices of Western Australia do not fall short of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as ratified by Australia.
- (2) and (3) Commonwealth and State discussions and consultations concerning these conventions, which have resulted in Australian ratification of the convention and compilation of Australia's report as required by article 40 of the convention, have taken place on a number of occasions in the Standing Committee of Attorneys General and meetings of Ministers on Human Rights. The proceedings of those ministerial meetings and Government to Government correspondence are confidential.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Meetings of Attorneys General

97. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it fact that the Attorneys General of the Commonwealth, the other States, and the Northern Territory, attend meetings of Ministers responsible for human rights?
- (2) When and by whom was the decision taken that the Attorney General should not attend those meetings?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No. All States, the Commonwealth, and the Northern Territory attend meetings of Ministers responsible for human rights.
- (2) No such decision was ever made.

HEALTH: CAPEL

Radiation: Compensation

98. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has any offer been made for compensation to the residents of homes in Capel which have higher than acceptable radiation levels or to anyone else?
- (2) If so, by whom and when?
- (3) Will he release details of the compensation made available, if any?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) to (3) I have no knowledge of any compensation having been offered.

HEALTH: TOBACCO

Anti-smoking Campaigner

99. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that a well-known anti-smoking campaigner was in Perth from Sydney recently?
- (2) Is it a fact that the person admitted to wilful damage of advertising posters with paint in the western suburbs of Perth during his stay?
- (3) Is it a fact that similar behaviour in Sydney resulted in his being charged and convicted and sent to prison on several occasions?
- (4) Is it a fact that his visit was sponsored by the Cancer Council of WA and the Australian Council on Smoking and Health?
- (5) What is the policy of the Government in relation to the association by one of its statutory bodies with known offenders, and is it appropriate that an agency funded by the Cancer Council be similarly associated?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) I believe so.
- (2) Again, I believe so. I seem to remember reading a newspaper report to that effect.
- (3) I have no knowledge of this.

- (4) The visit was not sponsored by the Cancer Council of Western Australia. The Australian Council on Smoking and Health is not a statutory body.
- (5) Statutory bodies are set up by Acts of Parliament and are given considerable autonomy. I am not quite clear on the meaning of the member's question. If the member can establish the degree of "association" to which he refers—having regard to my answer to part (4)—I would be prepared to further examine the question.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Canning Vale

100. Mr BATEMAN, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) In view of the concern being expressed by parents whose children attend the Canning Vale Primary School, is it the intention of the Education Department to close the school?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, what is the future life of the school bearing in mind there is a rapid increase in population occurring in the Canning Vale area?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) and (2) The land on which the Canning Vale Primary School stands is vested in the Industrial Lands Development Authority. That authority has commissioned a consultant's report on the development of the Canning Vale industrial estate. When the impact of any recommendations made about the school site are known the future of this school will be determined.
- (3) As almost all children attending the Canning Vale Primary School are transported by school bus, and in view of industrial development approaching the school site, the life of a school in the present location is limited.

HEALTH: GLUE SNIFFING

Prevalence

101. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) In view of the many complaints from parents and organisations connected

with junior sport that glue sniffing is becoming a major problem with juniors, will he advise if there is legislation to cover this dangerous practice?

- (2) If "No", will he introduce such legislation?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes, there is legislation to cover this dangerous practice under section 65 subsection (5) of Police Act.
- (2) and (3) Answered in (1).

MINING: COAL

Western Collieries Ltd. and Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd.

102. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Mines:

Are Western Collieries Ltd. and the Griffin Coal Mining companies operating under signed contracts for the supply of coal to the State Energy Commission?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

There is a signed contract with Griffin Coal Mining Co., but not with Western Collieries Ltd.

FUEL AND ENERGY: NUCLEAR

Power Station: Government's Programme

103. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Premier:

In view of the statements made by his predecessor and also by himself, will he tell Parliament of the Government's programming for the introduction of nuclear power for Western Australia?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

As I have already announced, I see little prospect of the Government having to think about the need for nuclear energy in this State at least until the year 2000—and possibly beyond.

Our emphasis will be to further encourage exploration for coal, petroleum, gas, and other fuels—and of course we will continue to pursue very vigorously our research into solar

energy, a field in which we are already well ahead of the other Australian States.

PRISONS: PRISONERS

Life Sentences

104. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) How many prisoners are currently in gaol serving life sentences?
- (2) What are the comparable figures in each of the preceding 10 years?
- (3) What is the average time actually served by life prisoners in each of the preceding 10 years?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Currently in Western Australian prisons there are 34 prisoners serving life sentences. There are a further 17 prisoners serving life sentences commuted from death.
- (2) and (3) Reported figures prior to 1980 did not distinguish between prisoners serving straight life sentences and prisoners serving death commuted to life sentences. Accordingly, the figures below are available—

Muster at June 30	Prisoners serving for life	Death Commuted	Total
1975	Not available	Not available	23
1976	Not available	Not available	29
1977	Not available	Not available	31
1978	Not available	Not available	27
1979	Not available	Not available	29
1980	25	14	39
1981	29	16	45

Figures provided to the Department of Corrections by the Probation and Parole Service advise that between 1950 and 1979 there were 44 death and 34 life sentences handed down.

Of the death sentences, 10 were still serving commuted sentences and 23 had been released after serving an average sentence of 11 years 11 months.

For the life sentences, 23 were still serving and nine were released after serving an average of seven years three months.

The balance of prisoners either died in prison, were executed or released to the care of the Mental Health Service.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Swan View

105. Mr HERZFELD, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Under what circumstances would Swan View High School be upgraded to senior high status?
- (2) Can he indicate the department's view as to when this might happen?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) The Swan View High School could be eligible for upgrading to senior high school status when the Governor Stirling Senior High School is no longer able to cater for all the year 11 and 12 students of the area.
- (2) As the number of students from an area depends on housing developments my department is unable to predict when Swan View may warrant a senior high school, but indications are that the growth in the area will be relatively slow.

ABATTOIR: MIDLAND JUNCTION

Alternative Uses

106. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has any action been taken to commit the Midland Junction Abattoir site and lairages to alternative uses?
- (2) If so, what are these?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when does he anticipate actions will be taken to commit the site and lairages to alternative uses?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) The lairages have been leased on a short-term basis to a company engaged in providing various services to the livestock industry. Arrangements are being made for the sale of 22 industrial lots which form part of the Midland complex.
- (3) Answered by (1) and (2).

HOSPITAL: SWAN DISTRICT*Extended Care Service*

107. Mr HILL, to the Minister for Health:

Can he guarantee that an extended care service for disabled people will be provided at Swan Districts Hospital by the end of 1982?

Mr YOUNG replied:

An extended care service for disabled people has already commenced at Swan Districts Hospital.

ABATTOIR: MIDLAND JUNCTION*Care and Maintenance: Cost*

108. Mr HILL, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What was the cost of keeping the Midland Junction Abattoir on a care and maintenance basis in 1979-80 and 1980-81 respectively?

Mr OLD replied:

This information is being obtained and I will advise the member when it is available.

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL*Apprentices*

109. Mr HILL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the total number of apprenticeships contracted by Westrail last year?
- (2) How many applicants were there for those positions?
- (3) How many apprenticeships have been contracted by Westrail for 1982?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) 157.
- (2) 1 768.
- (3) 121.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY*Power Station: Bunbury*

110. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What is the current timetabling for the establishment of the new Bunbury power station?
- (2) What are the current funding arrangements?

(3) What is the—

- (a) anticipated capital cost of the station;
- (b) capacity of the station;
- (c) size of the power units; and
- (d) the annual coal burn?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The State Energy Commission has informed me that its planning for the new Bunbury power station is not yet finalised. The timing of the Bunbury project may be determined by the necessity to supply new large industrial loads within the State, and the operation of the first generating unit could be some time between mid-1987-1989.
- (2) No definite funding arrangements have yet been made, but a number of possibilities have been examined and a final decision will depend on the scale and timing of increased industrial loads.
- (3) (a) to (d) The capacity of the station, the size of the units, the amount of coal to be consumed, and the anticipated capital cost of the project will all depend on the requirements to meet the power supply needs of new large energy-consuming industries.

WOOD CHIPPING*Log Intake, and Employment*

111. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) What was the log intake of each of the mills drawing timber from the woodchip licence area for each of the years 1979 to 1981?
- (2) What was the number of employees at each of those mills for each of those years?
- (3) Which of the mills drew timber from the Shannon River basin?
- (4) What volume of the intake of each mill was derived from the Shannon River basin in 1981?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) The information is not available for each of the mills. If the member will list the mills of interest the Forests Department can provide intakes obtained from Crown land.
- (2) Information on employment at individual mills is confidential.

- (3) In 1981 the following mills drew from the Shannon Basin area—

Bunnings	— Pemberton
Bunnings	— Northcliffe
Millars	— Quinninup
Millars	— Jardee
Bunnings	— Nyamup
Gandy's	— Jardee
Monier	— Busselton
McLeans	— Denmark.

(4)	1981
Pemberton	— 5 059 m ³
Northcliffe	— 11 573
Quinninup	— 977
Jardee	— 8 481
Nyamup	— 445
Gandy	— 333
Monier	— 390
McLeans	— 728

STATE FORESTS: FORESTS DEPARTMENT

Public Relations Consultants

112. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Does the Forests Department use the services of any public relations consultants?
- (2) If so, what is the name of the consultants?
- (3) How long have they been engaged by the Forests Department?
- (4) What have they been engaged to do?
- (5) How much were they paid in each of the years since the Manjimup woodchip industry began operations in 1975?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Eric White Associates.
- (3) Since May 1976.
- (4) For consultation and counselling.
- (5) 1975— Nil
1976— \$2 050.52
1977— \$2 434.30
1978— \$5 817.41
1979— \$10 341.90
1980— \$8 945.05
1981— \$9 440.80
1982—
to date—\$925.38.

STATE FINANCE

Infrastructure Borrowing Allocation

113. Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

In respect of a loan of \$121.2 million recently negotiated and being the 1981-82 infrastructure borrowing allocation, will he advise the details of this loan and with whom, including interest rate, repayment arrangements, etc.?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I should point out that the amount of \$121.2 million to which the member refers is in fact the total semi-Government infrastructure borrowing programme allocated to Western Australia for the current financial year. The estimated distribution of this allocation between projects and the actual borrowings arranged to date are set out in the table below.

Project	Allocation (\$ Million)	Borrowings to 24-3-82 (\$ Million)
Dampier-Perth Gas Pipeline	35.5	26.0
Muja D	52.9	30.3
Pilbara Power	5.9	—
Kwinana Conversion	19.0	21.9
North West Shelf Infrastructure	4.8	—
Jervoise Bay	1.56	1.56
Worsley	1.6	—

It should be noted that actual allocations to projects from the completed borrowing programme may vary from the initial estimates within the total allocation.

In respect of the projects of the State Energy Commission, the amount of \$78 164 500 raised to date is comprised as follows—

\$47 130 000—Domestic public loan, at interest rates of between 15.4% and 15.7% depending on the terms, ranging from four to 15 years, and repayable on maturity.

\$734 500—Domestic private loans at interest rates of between 15.8% and 16.0% depending on the terms, ranging from four to 10 years, and repayable on maturity.

\$30 300 000—Overseas floating rate US dollar loan arranged by the Australian and New Zealand Banking Group Limited, for a term of 15 years with repayments in four equal annual instalments commencing on the twelfth anniversary of the loan agreement. Interest is at the rate of LIBOR plus a

margin 0.25% p.a. in year 1, 0.375% p.a. in years 2 to 10 and 0.5% p.a. in years 11 to 15.

For the balance of its infrastructure programme the State Energy Commission is currently negotiating for a loan of approximately \$35.0 million and expects to raise the remainder domestically by way of private loans.

The borrowings of the Industrial Lands Development Authority have been by way of domestic private loans, at interest rates of 13.7% and 16.0%, for maturities of seven years and 10 years respectively.

The funding requirements for other projects are still to be raised.

STATE FINANCE

Infrastructure Borrowing Allocation

114. Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

In respect of infrastructure borrowing of \$121.2 million for 1981-82 will he advise the distribution between projects and the actual payments made to date?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

See answer to question 113.

STATE FINANCE

Trade Credit with Bank of Japan

115. Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

With reference to the trade credit of \$38.6 million arranged last year with the Bank of Japan will he advise the details of dealings made against this amount and current interest rate applying?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I am advised by the State Energy Commission that because of a delay in completing documentation and legal requirements necessitated by the complex form of the State Energy Commission Act prior to its amendment last year, it has not been possible to arrange draw downs under this loan to date. Initial contractual payments to the suppliers amounting to \$1 000 402 have been paid directly by the commission and this sum will be recouped from the first draw down which is now expected to be in the six months period from

March to September 1982, the actual date depending on the suppliers requirements.

HEALTH

Urea-formaldehyde

116. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that urea-formaldehyde foam insulation is a health hazard due to its possible emission of poisonous gas?
- (2) Is urea-formaldehyde foam insulation banned in other countries?
- (3) How widespread is its use in Western Australia?
- (4) What action has he taken?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes, under certain circumstances.
- (2) Yes. It is banned in Canada and in several States of the USA. The US consumer products safety committee has recommended a total ban. This has not been implemented and it is not clear what authority that committee has over the individual States.
- (3) There are no records, but its use is not extensive.
- (4) There have been a number of meetings between the companies concerned and officers from public health and consumer affairs. A stringent code of practice has been agreed and introduced by the companies pending further advice from the working party set up by the National Health and Medical Research Council into the use of urea-formaldehyde foam insulation. Checks for formaldehyde in air in treated premises have been carried out by the Government Chemical Laboratories.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Advertisements

117. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

How often in the last three years has the Public Service Board—

- (a) advertised to fill a job vacancy;
- (b) received applications;
- (c) made no appointment; and
- (d) subsequently again advertised,

calling for applications to fill the same job vacancy?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) to (d) I have been advised by the Public Service Board that statistics of this nature are not readily available. Whilst the information for the last 18 months could be extracted manually this would require the diversion of a number of staff who are already fully committed on essential duties.

Should the member have any specific query he would like to raise, information could be obtained by making a direct approach to the Chairman, Public Service Board.

ADMINISTRATION ACT

Proclamations

118. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

On what dates have proclamations been made and what amounts have been declared under section 139 of the Administration Act?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

24 December, 1976—not exceeding \$3 000.

PROBATE AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

Filing Fees

119. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

What increases in filing fees have been imposed since March 1974 for applications for grants of—

- (a) probate;
(b) letters of administration?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (a) and (b) The member is referred to the issues of the *Government Gazette* on 23 June, 1978, 1 August, 1980, and 20 November, 1981.

POLICE: OFFICERS

Offences

120. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Were certain former members of the Western Australian Police Force tried in the Criminal Court late last year for various alleged offences and acquitted?
(2) If "Yes", what were the various offences alleged and how many policemen were involved?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) (a) They were charged with—
(i) having conspired together with another person to obtain cannabis with intent to sell or supply;
(ii) having conspired together to supply cannabis to another person;
(iii) having conspired together and with others to pervert the course of justice;
(b) four.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

150th Anniversary: Cost

121. Mr BERTRAM, to the Speaker:

What has been the total cost to the taxpayer so far for conducting the 150th anniversary of the first meeting of the Legislative Council celebration?

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) replied:

I have referred the member's question to my colleague, the President of the Legislative Council, with the request that the information sought be supplied to the member.

STAMP DUTY: CONVEYANCES

Family Court

122. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

How much stamp duty has been lost as a result of conveyances between spouses having been registered in the Family Court at a time when the respective spouses were not contemplating nor entitled to a divorce?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No records were kept of these conveyances prior to the High Court decision which made section 90 of the Family Law Act invalid.

Since then the position has been closely monitored by the Commissioner of State Taxation to ensure that only conveyances relating to genuine divorce or separation proceedings are charged with nominal duty.

TOWN PLANNING: SCARBOROUGH BEACH

High-rise Development

23. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Is it the Government's intention to allow the City of Stirling to permit high rise development close to the Scarborough beach front without the Government (on behalf of all Western Australians) being first satisfied that that beach—perhaps the most popular in this State—will not be irretrievably spoilt or destroyed by such development?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

This is a matter for the local authority and the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning. In addition, the Environmental Protection Authority has been requested to report on the environmental aspects of the project.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Balcatta

24. Mr BERTRAM, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

What was the Balcatta Senior High School student population and teaching staff numbers as at 1 March—

- (a) 1979;
- (b) 1980;
- (c) 1981, and
- (d) 1982?

Mr CLARKO replied:

	1 March Pupil Numbers	Teaching Staff
(a) 1979	1 058	76
(b) 1980	949	69
(c) 1981	937	67
(d) 1982	1 088	72

ELECTORAL: ACT

Amendment

125. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Is it his Government's intention to amend the State electoral laws again before the next State general election?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Electoral Act is kept under constant review and amendments will be introduced to Parliament when necessary.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Tuart Hill

126. Mr BERTRAM, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

Is it his intention to maintain in 1983 at Tuart Hill Senior High School—

- (a) teaching staff of a calibre equal to the present staff there; and
- (b) class numbers no larger than they are this year?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (a) Yes;
- (b) yes.

COMMUNITY WELFARE: HOSTEL

Norbert Street

127. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is he aware of the financial difficulties being experienced by the Norbert Street Hostel for itinerant Aborigines?
- (2) If "Yes", what measures have been taken by the Department for Community Welfare and the State Housing Commission to ensure the ongoing existence of the hostel?

- (3) What long-term accommodation plans are proposed by the Department for Community Welfare and the State Housing Commission for the 30 or so fringe dwellers who live in the bull paddock next to the East Perth power station and who are not taken into account in the current funding allocations for the hostel?
- (4) What consideration, if any, has the State Housing Commission given to the accommodation needs of aged Aboriginals in the central city area, and with what result?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department for Community Welfare issued two emergency food vouchers to the value of \$160 each, in February, to enable food to be purchased for residents. A Community Welfare Department representative is also maintaining contact with relevant organisations working to overcome the existing problems.

At the request of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning and Co-ordinating Committee the State Housing Commission has inspected the Norbert Street Hostel and provided details of maintenance requirements and estimate of costs.

- (3) No plans have been made for Government-operated accommodation for these people. The night shelter of St. Bartholomew's, 108 Brown Street, East Perth, which has Government assistance, caters for the need of such itinerant persons, the number of whom fluctuates markedly. Currently, however, it is understood that the fringe dwellers prefer to make use of services provided by the St. Norbert's New Era Home.

In addition, the State Housing Commission is aware of the fringe dwellers whose particular needs have been discussed with the Aboriginal medical service, the Aboriginal hostels, and the New Era Association with a view to finding a permanent solution to the accommodation needs of these people.

- (4) The State Housing Commission is not aware of any aged Aboriginals as a separate group requiring accommodation in the central city area.

TRANSPORT: BUS

Non-Government Schools

128. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of the particular additional burden placed on small non-Government schools, which receive no subsidy for bus hire charges, of the extra charges for bus hire by the MTT between 12 noon and 2.00 p.m., particularly as that time of the day is often the only time when such schools can book in for swimming classes?
- (2) What recent consideration, if any, has been given to extending the subsidy for bus hire charges already available to Government schools to non-Government schools in view of the increasing difficulties facing these schools as a result of increasing hire charges?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) The MTT no longer charges differential rates for bus hire between those hours. The standard charge from 8 February 1982 is \$2.00 per kilometre, of which the Education Department is required to contribute 26c per kilometre for Government school bus hire. The charge applies to the journey from the school to the destination and return.
- (2) No, the present severe budget constraints would not permit extension of the subsidy to non-Government schools.

TRANSPORT: BUS

School: Notice

129. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In view of the apparent contradiction between advice given in his answer to question 161 of 1981, in which he advised that the MTT needs seven working days' notice from clients ordering buses for charter, and that contained in a recent notice to schools from the ABC about free school concerts advising that the MTT requires four weeks' notice for bus bookings, will he clarify the situation?

- (2) Is he aware of the particular impost on small non-Government schools which receive no subsidy, of extra charges for bus hire between 12 noon and 2.00 p.m., particularly as that time of the day is often the only time when such schools can book in for swimming classes?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what special consideration, if any, has been given to the special difficulties faced by small non-Government schools?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) I am advised that in normal circumstances the MTT requires seven working days notice from clients ordering buses for charter. However, because of the large number of schools and buses involved in the travel arrangements for the free school concerts, it is desirable for the trust to have maximum notice in order to arrange a smooth and efficient operation.
- (2) An additional charge for bus charter between 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. has not been in effect since the start of this school year. Charges are based on the kilometres travelled for the charter.
- (3) Not applicable.

HOUSING: PURCHASE

Assistance: Applicants

130. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are currently on the State Housing Commission's list for purchase assistance?
- (2) What is the income limit governing eligibility for home purchase list?
- (3) What is the current house and land cost of such purchase homes?
- (4) What is the interest rate payable on purchase homes and how is it varied over the repayment period?
- (5) What is the minimum deposit required on purchase homes?
- (6) What is the average monthly repayment on purchase homes for the first five years?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) At February 1982 there were 534 applicants for Loan Scheme Housing Act 1980 assistance.

(2) Income Eligibility is—

Existing Tenants—no income eligibility requirement.

Non Tenants—

Metropolitan and other country areas \$256.00 per week

North-west and Kimberley \$334.19 per week

Other remote areas \$306.30 per week

Plus where applicable, \$5.00 per week per dependent child beyond the second.

- (3) Maximum value house and land in the metropolitan area is \$36 000.
- (4) The current interest rate is 8 per cent per annum and may be varied from time to time as determined by the commission with the approval of the Minister.
- (5) Minimum deposit is—
Mortgage—minimum 10 per cent of house and land sale price. Contract of sale—minimum deposit \$1 500 negotiable to \$1 000.
- (6) The monthly repayment depends on sale price, deposit paid, term of loan and interest rate.

EXAMPLE—

Loan \$34 200

Interest 8 per cent

Term 30 years

Instalment \$251.10 per month.

HOUSING

Rental: Applicants

131. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

How many applicants are currently on the State Housing Commission's waiting list for rental assistance?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

There are 5 875 applicants on the waiting list for Commonwealth-State rental accommodation.

HOUSING: EMERGENT AND WAIT-TURN*Applicants*

132. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

(1) How many applicants are on the emergency list for the following categories of accommodation in each of the commission's offices at Mirrabooka, Victoria Park and Fremantle:

- (a) two-bedroomed;
- (b) three-bedroomed;
- (c) four-bedroomed;
- (d) pensioner unit?

(2) How many applicants are listed on the wait-turn list for the following categories of accommodation in each of the commission's offices at Mirrabooka, Victoria Park and Fremantle:

- (a) two-bedroomed;
- (b) three-bedroomed;
- (c) four-bedroomed;
- (d) pensioner unit?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

(1) and (2) Scheduled below are the numbers of applicants, both emergent and wait-turn, for Commonwealth-State rental accommodation in the metropolitan area.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE RENTAL

	Emergent	Wait Turn
2 Bedroom		
Mirrabooka	21	670
Victoria Park	16	430
Fremantle	3	384
3 Bedroom		
Mirrabooka	9	440
Victoria Park	46	321
Fremantle	7	277
4 Bedroom		
Mirrabooka	7	82
Victoria Park	8	45
Fremantle	2	27
Pensioner		
Mirrabooka	49	285
Victoria Park	Nil	158
Fremantle	8	138
TOTAL	176	3 257

HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION*Purchase Accommodation: Construction*

133. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

(1) How many houses is the State Housing Commission building for purchase in the current financial year?

(2) In which suburbs are those homes being constructed and how many are being built in each suburb?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

(1) In 1981-82 the purchase building programme is 226 units.

(2) Following is a summary of the suburbs involved and the number of units in each suburb:

	units
1. Girrawheen	23
2. Forrestfield	44
3. Balga	41
4. Nollamara	11
5. Koondoola	17
6. Wexcombe	19
7. Lockridge	6
8. Langford	9
9. Wanneroo	10
10. Kenwick	14
11. Midvale	7
12. Hamilton Hill	25

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HOUSING: PENSIONERS*Supplementary Rent Assistance*

134. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

(1) Can he confirm that as of February this year the Federal Government has withdrawn the \$5 per week supplementary rent assistance for pensioners moving into State Housing Commission units?

(2) Can he also confirm that this has resulted in tenants living in the same block of units paying rents at two different rates and that new tenants have been placed at a serious disadvantage by this Federal Government's decision?

(3) What action, if any, does the State Government intend taking to rectify this inequitable situation for new tenants?

(4) Was this Commonwealth decision made without consultation with the States?

(5) If "Yes" to (4), what representations has the State Government made on this particular matter to the Federal Government, and with what result?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Pensioners becoming public housing tenants from February 1982, who have not been previously in receipt of the supplementary assistance, will not qualify for that allowance.

Those pensioners previously in receipt of the assistance as private tenants who enter public housing will continue to be entitled.

- (2) Pensioners not receiving the allowance will have the rental assessed on the lower income and pay a rental of approximately \$1.00 per week less to the commission.
- (3) This matter was discussed at the Housing Ministers' Conference in September 1981, and subsequently approaches have been made to the Commonwealth.

The matter has again been raised for consideration at the Housing Ministers' Conference on 26 March.

- (4) Yes.
- (5) Answered by (3)

HOUSING: STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Rental Accommodation: Construction

135. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many units of rental accommodation of the following types and sizes are being constructed in the current financial year:
- (a) two-bedroomed duplex;
 - (b) two-bedroomed single detached;
 - (c) three-bedroomed town house;
 - (d) three-bedroomed duplex;
 - (e) three-bedroomed single detached;
 - (f) four-bedroomed single detached;
 - (g) five-bedroomed single detached?
- (2) In which suburbs and country districts are these units to be located?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) and (2) As the answer requires detailed information the member will be advised by letter.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Disconnection of Supply

136. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) How any disconnections of electricity supply to domestic consumers have been effected in each month since August 1981?
- (2) Under what circumstances will the commission defer payment of the \$15 reconnection fee beyond the time of reconnection of supply?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Disconnections for non-payment—metropolitan area only. Separate records are not maintained for the country area.

September, 1981	1 114
October, 1981	932
November, 1981	901
December, 1981	497
January, 1982	783
February, 1982	694

- (2) Each case is treated on its merits and, depending on the circumstances, the reconnection fee may be deferred for a period.

COMMUNITY WELFARE: DEPARTMENT

Disconnection of Electricity Supply: Assistance

137. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Under what circumstances will the Department for Community Welfare assist with the payment of the \$15 reconnection fee in cases where low income families have been subject to disconnection of domestic electricity supply?
- (2) Has any departmental directive been issued on this matter for the guidance of departmental officers?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what is the content of any such directive?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) As the SEC exercises its discretion to defer payment of the \$15 reconnection fee, the Department for Community Welfare does not provide assistance in this regard.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

HOUSING: COMMONWEALTH-STATE AGREEMENT

Loan Priority List: Applicants

138. Mr WILSON, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are currently listed on the Commonwealth/State housing agreement funds loan priority list?
- (2) What proportion of the last allocation of funds has been taken up and when is a further allocation due?
- (3) What is the income eligibility applying to such loans and the maximum value of house and land allowed?
- (4) What is the average loan made available?
- (5) What are the current minimum and maximum interest rates charged on these loans?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) There are currently 368 applicants on the loan priority list.
- (2) The total 1981-82 allocation of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement funds has been offered to eligible applicants. The next allocation of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement funds is due in July or August 1982.
- (3) The income eligibility and maximum values for house and land are as follows—

Area	Income Eligibility* \$ p.w.	Maximum Value (House & Land) \$
Metropolitan	240.00	34 000
Country South of 26th Parallel	240.00	35 500
Kalgoorlie		
Esperance	300.00	43 000
Gascoyne		48 000
Ashburton		
Pilbara	320.00	64 000
Kimberley		67 000

*NOTE: (1) Increase by \$5.00 for third and each subsequent child.

- (4) Applicants are allowed to borrow up to 90 per cent of the value of house and land.
For the six months ended December 1981 the average loan was \$28 300.

- (5) The current interest rates charged on loans funded under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement vary between 6 per cent per annum and 10 per cent per annum depending on the borrowers ability to repay.

STATE FORESTS

General Working Plan

139. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Has the general working plan for 1982 been completed?
- (2) (a) If "Yes", when will it be presented to Parliament;
(b) if "No", when is it expected to be completed?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) Yes. The member is referred to the statement by the Premier which appeared in *The West Australian* on 11 March 1982.
- (2) (a) Part 1 of General Working Plan No. 87 will be tabled in the very near future.
(b) Answered by (1).

STATE FORESTS

General Working Plan

140. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) With whom does the responsibility of drawing up the Forests Department working plan rest?
- (2) Can the working plan be altered by—
(a) the Western Australian State Parliament;
(b) the Minister for Forests;
(c) Cabinet decision?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The member is referred to section 31 of the Forests Act 1918-1976.

SEEDS ACT

Amendment

141. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Is it intended to introduce any changes to the seed handling legislation in the present session of Parliament?
- (2) If "Yes", what areas of operation of the present Act is it intended to amend?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) It is intended to amend the Seeds Act 1981 to define the proportion of germinable seeds in a seed lot by "count", rather than by "mass".

ABATTOIRS: MIDLAND JUNCTION
AND ESPERANCE MEAT EXPORTERS*Plant and Equipment*

142. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) What plant and equipment was purchased from Midland Junction Abattoir by Esperance Meat Exporters?
- (2) What was the total amount paid for this plant?
- (3) When is it expected that construction of Esperance Meat Exporters abattoirs will commence?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (3) This information is being obtained and I will advise the member when it is available.

TOWN PLANNING: SCARBOROUGH
BEACH*High Rise Development*

143. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Does the proposed 20-storey block of home units for Scarborough beachfront need her or her department's approval?
- (2) Have all necessary traffic and environmental studies been carried out?
- (3) What is the nature and extent of such inquiries?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) It does not require my approval but does require the approval of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority because the site abuts an important regional road reservation in the Metropolitan Region Scheme.
- (2) No, but consultations affecting traffic and environmental aspects are in hand.

- (3) The inquiries relate to such aspects as coastal conservation, environmental impact, urban design and traffic. Their extent will depend upon initial findings.

PRISON: FREMANTLE

Fire Safety Standards

144. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) What changes have been made in fire safety standards at Fremantle Prison in—
 - (a) the main cell block; and
 - (b) generally,
 since 1977?
- (2) What is the procedure for putting out fires in cells at Fremantle Prison after prisoners have been locked up for the night?
- (3) What is the procedure for the evacuation of Fremantle Prison in the event of a major fire?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Fire safety standards at Fremantle Prison are the subject of continuous review by officers of my department, the Public Works Department and the WA Fire Brigades Board. Since 1977 the following has occurred—

Fire blankets supplied to all working areas and divisions;

purchase of a booster pump to supplement water pressure for hydrants;

installation of additional hydrant facilities;

a review of cleaning and other products used in the prison to reduce the use of combustible materials;

the training of prison officers in fire prevention in conjunction with the WA Fire Brigade;

familiarisation visits by fire brigade officers from the Fremantle area;

a feasibility study of building improvements by the Public Works Department which

resulted in the installation of fire resistant doors;

a regular review was also carried out by the WA Fire Brigade in December 1981 and the recommendations made are currently being implemented.

- (2) and (3) Procedures for putting out fires and for the evacuation of divisions are included in Fremantle Prison orders that have been examined by the chief fire officer. For security reasons, I will not specify the procedure.

PRISONS: PRISONERS

Mrs Nita Blankett: Death

145. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Has the Department of Corrections submitted a report on the death of Mrs Nita Blankett en route from the Bandyup Prison to the Midland Medical Centre?
- (2) If "Yes", will he table a copy of the report?
- (3) If "No" to (2), why not, and will he call for such a report?
- (4) Has the coroner's inquest on Mrs Blankett's death been concluded?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4) will he table a copy of that report?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) It is a departmental report to me, and also the matter is *sub judice* as the coroner's inquest has not yet concluded.
- (4) and (5) Answered by (3).

146. *This question was postponed.*

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: Citrus Fruit

147. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he received a letter dated 19 March 1982 from the Children's Orchards Inc. (a benevolent institution for distribution of gift free citrus fruits to disadvantaged children and frail aged dependent people) expressing concern at the merging of Westrail smalls section with a private company?

- (2) Is he aware that for the past 34 years, Westrail policy has been to carry donated citrus fruit from Roelands to various destinations throughout the State free of charge by rail?

- (3) Is he aware that if this policy is changed, the charitable service will cease because of high freight costs?

- (4) Will he ensure that the citrus fruit will still be carried free of charge?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes, I have just received the letter.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) and (4) The Minister for Transport is investigating this matter and he will advise the Leader of the Opposition of the outcome in due course.

POST OFFICES

Downgrading of Status

148. Mr EVANS, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the names of the post offices in Western Australia which the Commonwealth Government intends to downgrade in status in 1982, and if so, which are involved?
- (2) What representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government from this State to point out the inconveniences and hardships which the downgrading of post offices in country towns such as Nannup and Pemberton will possibly create?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) I am advised that Australia Post has a policy of changing the status of post offices from official to unofficial for which there is insufficient work for one full-time employee.

In addition, staff ceilings recommended by the Federal Committee of Review of Commonwealth Functions had obliged the Australian Postal Commission to reconsider this policy, but, on 1 March 1982 it was decided there would be no change in policy.

My advice is that at present there are no plans to change the status of any post office in this State.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GAMBLING: DECISION

Joint Party Meeting

16. Mr CARR, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of his comment on the Mike Walsh Show yesterday that he wanted the joint Government parties to make a decision on gambling at their meeting yesterday, why did the joint parties not respect his wishes?

Mr Herzfeld: It is none of your business.

Mr CARR: I would have thought it was the business of the public to know what was going on in the decision-making processes of this State. To continue—

- (2) When will a decision be made, and will the Cabinet automatically accept the decisions of the party room and enshrine them in legislation?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Issues which are raised within the Government party room are treated in the same way as those raised within Labor Caucus.

Mr Pearce: Why raise the issue on the Mike Walsh Show?

Mr O'CONNOR: It is not my intention to provide the House with confidential details of what transpired in the party room. To continue—

- (2) A decision will be made when the party room and the Cabinet so decide.

WATER RESOURCES: EXCESS WATER

Property Settlements

17. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it a fact that if a domestic property is purchased, say, two months after the beginning of the financial year of meter reading, and the consumption is well over the allowed 150 kilolitres, the purchaser must pay for all the excess?

- (2) If the answer to (1) is, "Yes", how could this obvious iniquity be overcome?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) I had the opportunity to talk to the member about this matter and I am glad he asked this question because his complaint is not an isolated one. At the time of property transfer, the purchaser's share of water rates, municipal rates, land tax, sewerage rates—which are based on property values—and the fixed rate for water is adjusted, usually by the participants, or the real estate agent; there is very seldom argument about these matters. However, occasionally there is argument about the usage of water because in most cases, both the vendor and the purchaser omit to ask the Metropolitan Water Board to undertake a special meter reading, and they do not read it themselves.

I believe it would be inequitable not to charge the person responsible for the account—that is, the proprietor at the time—even if it were proved that the vendor had been responsible for the greater proportion of the water used. If we decided not to charge the purchaser for the water used, it would be to the detriment of the other ratepayers of the Metropolitan Water Board who are not in such a predicament.

The only solution I can offer to the member is to undertake to write to the Real Estate Institute of WA and draw its attention to this problem so that it might in turn admonish the individual real estate agents to inform their clients—whether they are purchasers or vendors—of the problem so that they may enter an agreement amongst themselves. In any event, it is the purchaser—who is the proprietor at the time the excess water bill goes out—who is responsible for payment for this usage of water. I hope the Real Estate Institute will take such action so that these difficulties may be overcome. I emphasise that they cannot be overcome by simply omitting to charge for the excess water.

**GAMBLING: WILLIAMS COMMITTEE
REPORT
Availability**

18. Mr WILSON, to the Premier:

- (1) How many copies were made of the Williams committee report, and to whom were they distributed?
- (2) Since the details of the Williams report on gambling have been made freely available to sections of the media, when will the Government have the courtesy to make the report available to the Parliament, and the public generally?
- (3) Since the Cabinet apparently intends to decide what to do about gambling on the basis of recommendations contained in the Williams report, does he consider it proper for the report not to be made public?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The Williams report is not a Government report; it is a party report. As the member would know, it is not unusual for parties to establish committees to investigate matters internally, as we have done.

Mr Pearce: They do not normally report directly to the Press, though.

Mr O'CONNOR: Who did?

Mr Pearce: The Williams report has been in all the newspapers.

Mr O'CONNOR: How does the member for Gosnells know that?

Mr Pearce: I read it.

Mr O'CONNOR: Some of the material contained in the newspaper report was quite inaccurate; however, I do not want to go into details of the Williams report at this stage. It is not a Government report; it is an interim report given to the party room by a committee established by the Government parties. The report is confidential within the party and that is where it will remain at this stage.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT:
NEW INDUSTRIES**

Provision of Land

19. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

I refer to the Government's scheme to give free enterprise land for two years to new industries coming to Western Australia, and ask—

- (1) Was he correctly reported in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* as giving an assurance that the scheme would not be used to give an unfair advantage to new companies established in direct competition with existing local firms?
- (2) How is he able to give an assurance that existing local firms will not be disadvantaged in this way?
- (3) What safeguards has the Government built into the new scheme to ensure this does not occur?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Obviously, existing local firms will have the same opportunity as those coming from the Eastern States. The idea of the programme is to endeavour to attract from the Eastern States new industries or manufacturing concerns which are badly needed in Western Australia, as well as some small business. Western Australia has the Asian countries of Indonesia and Malaysia close by which have many markets open to us. At the moment, however, we expend about \$2 800 million annually in the Eastern States for the purchase of goods. The Government believes that by attracting industry to this State, much of that money would be expended in Western Australia, rather than in the Eastern States, and thus would create a great deal of employment for our own people.
- (3) Each of these issues will be treated on its merits by the department, and will be investigated to endeavour to ensure the proposal does not contravene the issue or operate against local organisations. What we are looking for, virtually, is new industry.

**EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS
AND HIGH SCHOOLS**

Fire-fighting Equipment

20. Mr HERZFELD, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

- (1). What is the current policy in regard to the supply of fire-fighting equipment in Western Australian schools and what is the rationale behind the policy?

- (2) Is this policy being reviewed?
- (3) Has the review been completed?
- (4) If yes, with what results?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) Fire-fighting equipment by way of extinguishers and hoses is supplied to all high schools but no equipment is supplied to primary schools. The rationale behind the policy is that a teacher's first responsibility is to evacuate the school and attend to the children's safety and not to fight fires.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

TOWN PLANNING: SCARBOROUGH BEACH

High-rise Development

21. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Further to his reply to my question on notice 123 of today touching on the proposed high-rise development adjacent to Scarborough Beach, I ask—

- (1) When was the Environmental Protection Authority asked to report on this matter?
- (2) Who asked the authority to report on the matter?
- (3) To whom will the report be given?
- (4) Will the report be tabled, in due course?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) to (4) An application was made to the EPA under section 56 of the Environmental Protection Act. However, as the member's question seeks considerable detail, and as I would like to provide him with a considered reply, I request that the question be placed on the notice paper.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Kimberley Properties: Landing Fee

22. Mr BRIDGE, to the Minister for Transport:

I refer the Minister to a recent decision of the Western Australian Transport Commission in which six Kimberley pastoral properties are being asked to pay a landing fee of \$40 per flight for

the delivery of mail and freight, and ask—

- (1) In view of subsequent representations made pointing out the obvious unrealistic financial burden that will occur as a result of the introduction of this scheme, could the Minister give an indication that this matter is being re-examined by the Transport Commission?
- (2) Has the Transport Commission made a direct approach to Australia Post seeking its financial contribution towards the cost of providing this important air service to Kimberley stations?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) I can assure the member that a review is taking place at this time. The Commissioner for Transport has indicated to me that he has an officer in the area examining the problem. I am aware that only very little freight and mail is delivered to those places, which makes it very costly for the people involved. However, when the review is completed I will indicate to the member what can be done to rectify the problem, or reduce the impact of these costs.

LAND: PARKESTON

Aboriginal Night Shelter

23. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Lands:

I refer the Minister to his answer to my question on notice 50 of today concerning the provision of land for an Aboriginal night shelter at Parkeston. Part of that question asked when finalisation of the land transfer could be expected; however, no answer was given. In view of the fact that it will take at least 12 weeks to build the night shelter, and it looks as though, once again, the Aboriginal fringe dwellers in Kalgoorlie will be without shelter during our winter, could the Minister advise when the land transfer will take place so that building may commence?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

The answer to this further question is contained in my original answer to question on notice 50, where the reasons

for the delay in resolving this matter are outlined. I am sure the member is not suggesting the integrity of these mining leases should be overlooked.

Mr I. F. Taylor: No; all I am asking is, "When can we expect building to commence?"

Mr LAURANCE: That is in the hands of the Mines Department, as was pointed out in my answer to his original question.

HEALTH: TOBACCO

Advertising: Public Transport

24. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Transport:

In view of the State Government's professed concern about the hazards of cigarette smoking, and in view of the Minister for Health's oft-repeated wish to see smoking lessened in our community, can the Minister for Transport justify why many MTT buses display large, colourful advertisements extolling the virtues of smoking certain brands of cigarettes?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

This question is under examination at present.

Mr Bryce: This is called the "mirror Government"; it is always going to look into it!

Mr Mensaros: You are too late; we were using that one before you were born.

PORT: RONSARD ISLAND

Establishment

25. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Did CRA make a written approach to the Government in August 1981 seeking approval for the establishment of a deep water port and related facilities, including town site near or adjacent to Ronsard Island in the Pilbara, in association with Hancock & Wright?
- (2) In general terms what was the scope and magnitude of the project envisaged by CRA?
- (3) What was the Government's reply to the application?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) CRAE is the company in question, not CRA; and the answer is "Yes". I am not certain whether it was in August, but it was at that time of the year. The company was required to make that request under the terms of the Iron Ore (Wittenoom) Agreement Act. The company sought the Government's approval for the establishment of a deep water port at Ronsard Island, with associated facilities. No great detail was given in the request. The request was refused on the ground that it was not justified at that time, based on the evidence that at that time no ore had been identified for which contracts had been signed and which would pass through the port, if it were built.

Mr Grill: A major project was envisaged.

Mr P. V. JONES: There was no ore to put through the port, if it were built, because no contractual tonnage had been offered to support the shipping. I might say, however, that subsequently it was suggested that a certain tonnage could be directed towards such a port by taking approximately six million tonnes from Goldsworthy, and six million tonnes from Cliffs Robe River. That proposition was put to me subsequently. Needless to say, that will be reviewed also.

Mr Grill: Who put that up?

Mr P. V. JONES: That was put up under the same agreement, but not by the parties who wrote to me in August.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Driver Education: Curtailment

26. Mr PEARCE, to the Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Education:

My question relates to the driver education programme which was curtailed drastically in the education funding cuts last year. I instance the removal of the driver education course from country schools, notably the Merredin Senior High School. Can he give some indication if driver education courses are to be restored to those schools which lost them in the funding cuts last year?

Mr CLARKO replied:

This matter is being considered. It involves a series of complications, as no doubt the member would be aware. In some cases, problems have been experienced in relation to the provision of vehicles; this has occurred particularly with the downturn in the motor industry. In some cases, vehicles were not provided or were withdrawn suddenly, thus causing difficulties. The Government is looking at the matter. It is a matter which—

Mr Brian Burke: It is under examination!

Mr CLARKO: —the Government was concerned to examine. It is true that we are looking at some of these things. We are in the situation of having a new Premier in the last two months, and it is reasonable that we should look at a whole range of things. I am sure everybody would want us to do so. Obviously the member regards this matter as a very serious one; and it is proper that we should look at it.

Certainly I will be paying attention to it. It is a matter that is not as simple as it seems. There are many arguments as to who would be the better persons to take care of driver training. It is quite obvious that numerous motoring schools have staff who are professionally qualified. It is true that within the staffs of some schools a person who has a superior capacity is not available. We are looking at the matter, and it involves finance. It involves the schools and the potential people who might indulge in driver education courses. When we have had an opportunity to look at it thoroughly, we will make some announcements.

PRISONS: ACT, 1981

Proclamation

27. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Will the Minister advise when the Prisons Act 1981 is to be proclaimed?
- (2) If it is not possible to have an early proclamation of the Act, has he considered setting a date for the coming into force of section 29 and clause 10 of schedule 2?

- (3) If "yes" to (2), what is the outcome?
- (4) If "no" to (2), will the Minister give this consideration in view of the widespread concern and confusion amongst prisoners on this matter?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) I cannot advise when the Prisons Act will be proclaimed, because a great deal of work has to be completed. We have to prepare regulations, standing orders, and rules under the new Act. However, it is being pursued actively, and we hope that the Prisons Act 1981 will be proclaimed within the course of the next couple of months.

Mr Pearce: Is active pursuit the next step from active consideration?

Mr HASSELL: To continue—

- (2) It would not be possible to proclaim part of the Prisons Act without proclaiming all of it because, by the provisions of section 2 of the Act, the whole Act comes into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. It has no provision for the proclamation of part of the Act, as suggested.
- (3) and (4) Not applicable.

LAND: PARKESTON

Aboriginal Night Shelter

28. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Lands:

I refer to his last answer on the matter of the date for the finalisation of the land transfer for the Aboriginal night shelter at Parkeston. As his department has had before it since 22 June 1981 the Aboriginal Lands Trust request to excise the land, and as people's lives are at stake, does he not consider that this matter should be completed this month, no matter what objections and barriers are placed before it?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

In my answer to question on notice 50 today, I outlined that the hold up in the transfer of this land to the Aboriginal Lands Trust has been because of goldmining leases and mineral claims in the area. I am sure the Australian Labor Party is not suggesting that the integrity of those mining leases should be diminished in any way. The answer

indicated that the Department of Mines has contacted the holders of the mining tenements, and as soon as the clearances are completed, the project will proceed.

DAIRYING: CAPEL

Radiation Levels

29. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

Can he advise if radiation level tests have been conducted on milk from the Capel dairy that has been in the news recently, and which has been the subject of tests by the State X-ray Laboratory?

Mr OLD replied:

I understand that the Department of Public Health has been doing tests, but I have not seen the results.

MINING: DIAMONDS

Gem Quality: Valuations

30. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) In relation to the diamond project at Argyle, is he aware of reports that suggestions have been made that the gem quality diamonds from the Argyle field are worth five times less than the average value of gem quality stones produced throughout the world?
- (2) Does the State Government intend to do its own valuations of the gem quality stones found at Argyle?
- (3) If not, how can he assess properly the marketing agreement that Ashton will submit to him as the responsible Minister?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has referred to an answer which I gave him earlier today regarding the appointment of valuers by the Government. He asked whether the Government had engaged independent valuers to assess the value of Western Australian diamonds. I said that, as yet, no independent valuer has been appointed. I then went on to say that the valuing of the project was quite different from the assessment and the detailed consideration of the marketing proposals.

Mr Bryce: But it is related, is it not?

Mr P. V. JONES: Of course it is related, but it is not quite the same. One does not have to do a complete, on-going valuation of the project in order to make a determination of whether a percentage of the diamonds are sold here or there.

However, the answer to the question raised now as to whether it is the State Government's intention to appoint independent valuers is, "Yes". I have indicated that earlier in debate in the House on the agreement and by way of questions, because there is no way we will be able to accurately monitor the royalty situation—

Mr Bryce: I mean a valuation before the marketing agreements are entered into.

Mr P. V. JONES: I assume the member is alluding to the differing comments and statements regarding the value of products which have been made by one of the representatives associated with one of the partners to the joint venture. The answer to that is, "Yes; it will be taken into account". As yet, the State has not received any marketing proposals as required under the agreement, but when that occurs, as part of the consideration of those proposals, we will look at the value of the product, particularly having regard to the differing opinions put forward by one of the representatives of one of the joint venture partners.

GAMBLING: WILLIAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

Availability

31. Mr PEARCE, to the Premier:

Referring to the Premier's answer earlier today and his assurance that the Williams report was a private party document, I ask whether it is true that the release of all or any part of the report was an unauthorised action of which he disapproved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

If the report was released—I do not know whether it was—it was not with the approval of the party, nor was it with my approval, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for asking the question.

Mr Brian Burke: You are paranoid! You live your paranoia!

FUEL AND ENERGY: PETROL

Prices

32. Mr CARR, to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's answer to question 2 which was asked without notice on opening night on the subject of petrol prices in which he said, "In some country areas an additional cost is involved because of the distance to be travelled."

My question is—

- (1) Is he aware that the Federal Government has introduced a so-called fuel price equalisation

scheme, and is his answer an admission that the Federal scheme simply is not working?

- (2) Is he aware that some country centres where fuel is brought in by ship, as in Geraldton, the wholesale price is several cents per litre above Perth prices?
- (3) How does the Government justify allowing this situation to continue?
- (4) Will the Government take urgent legislative action to control the wholesale price of petrol as in other States?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (4) I am aware of Commonwealth legislation and what occurs there. The Government is taking action on this issue together with all the other States. As I explained, all the States should soon be receiving a report indicating how we can handle this matter together, rather than State by State.

Mr Carr: Some of the States have already dealt with the problem and they are paying lower prices.

Mr O'CONNOR: In some cases that is not true, as the member is aware. While the wholesale price is down in some States, the retail price is not. We are interested in what the consumer gets at the end of the line, as well as what the wholesaler gets on the way through.

I emphasise we are doing something about the matter and we are waiting for the report to be produced.

